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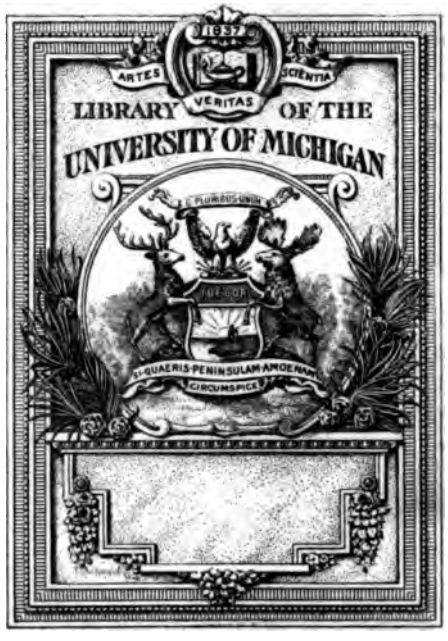
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JANUARY,
1897
Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, N. Y.

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☞ The Index to Vol. IV. (1895-6) may be obtained at the General Office, or at the Desk of the Delivery Room of the Pratt Institute Free Library. It will be sent to any address on receipt of a stamp for mailing.

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Calendar

January 1—February 1.

1897.

Jan. 1. New-Year's Day. Institute and Free Library closed.

" 4 Second Term begins. Classes in all Departments reopen.

" 7 In the Assembly Hall, at 11 45 A M., the twelfth Thursday morning illustrated lectute on the History of Art, by Mr. Walter S. Perry, Director of the Department of Fine Arts. Subject: Early Christian and Byzantine Art: Influence of Symbolism, Romanesque Art. The Art of the Eastern Roman Empire. The Art of the Western Roman Empire.

" 9. In the Exhibition-room of the Library, at 11 A M., before the Library School, the first of a series of four lectures on Engraving and other Reproductive Processes, by Mr J Frederick Hopkins Director of Art Education in the Public Schools of Boston.

" 12. In the Assembly Hall, at 3 30 P M, under the auspices of the Department of Domestic Art, the first in a course of free lectures on Historic Costume, by Miss Both-Hendriksen. Subject: From Rameses to Alexander; Egyptian, Assyrian, Persian, and Greek dress.

" 14 In the Assembly Hall, at 11.15 A M., the thirteenth Thursday morning illustrated lecture on the History of Art, by Mr. Walter S Perry. Subject: Saracenic Art The Art of the Mohammedans.

" 18. In the Exhibition-room of the Library, at 3 P.M, before the Library School, a lecture on the Bibliography of Theology, by Mr. Ernest C. Richardson, Librarian of the Princeton University Library.

" 19 In the Assembly Hall, at 3 30 P M, the second lecture in the course on Historic Costume, by Miss Both Hendriksen. Subject: Roman Costume: Changes due to Barbarian influence; Byzantine Costume.

Jan. 21. In the Assembly Hall, at 11 15 A.M., the fourteenth Thursday morning illustrated lecture on the History of Art, by Mr Walter S Perry. Subject: Gothic Architecture. Development of Plans, Walls Roof, Openings, Piers, and Ornaments. Cathedrals Characteristics of the English, French German, and Italian Styles.

" 23. In the Exhibition-room of the Library, at 11 A.M, the second of the series of lectures on Engraving and other Reproductive Processes, by Mr. J. Frederick Hopkins

" 26. In the Assembly Hall, at 3 30 P M, the third lecture in the course on Historic Costume, by Miss Both-Hendriksen Subject: Gallic, German, and other Costumes; Time of Charlemagne; The Dark Ages merge into the Mediæval.

" 28. In the Assembly Hall, at 11.15 A M, the fifteenth Thursday morning illustrated lecture, by Mr. Walter S. Perry, on the History of Art. Subject: Renaissance Architecture. Italian, French, and German Styles.

" 28. In the Assembly Hall, at 8 P.M, the fourth free lecture of the Institute Course, by Mr Henry Edward Krehbiel. Subject: "How to Listen to Music," with special reference to the concert by the Damreuther Quartette, to be given February 2.

" 30. In the Exhibition-room of the Library, at 11 A.M, the third of the series of lectures on Engraving and other Reproductive Processes, by Mr. J. Frederick Hopkins.

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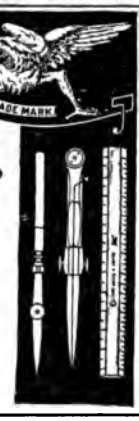

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DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS, PRATT INSTITUTE,
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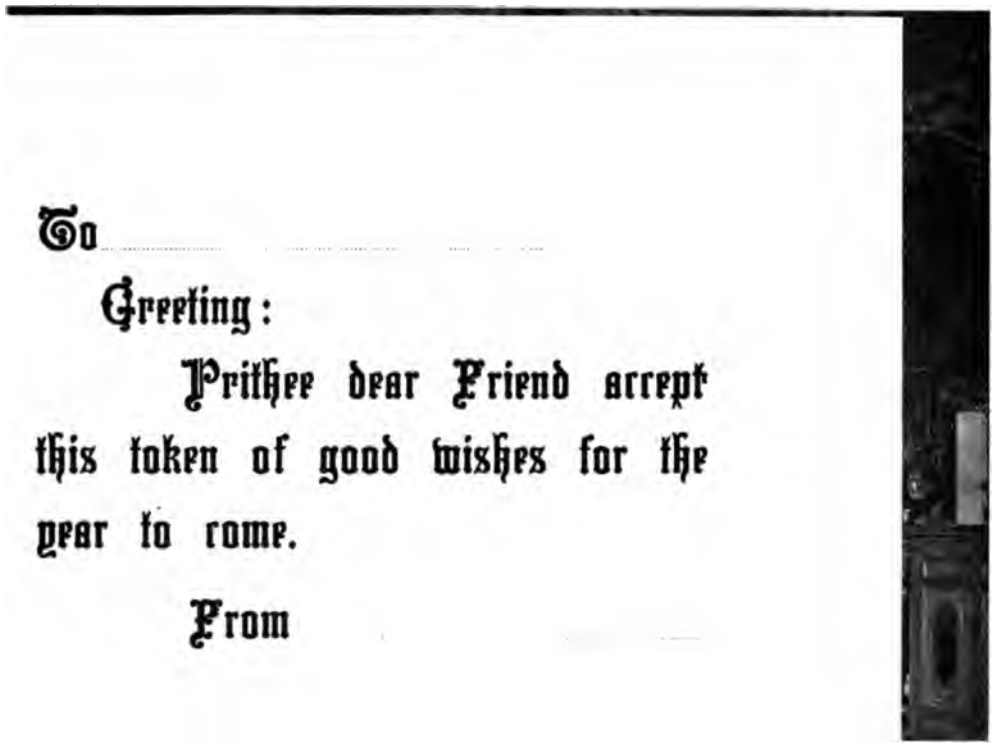


THREE times in a [illegible] across the Ponte Sant' Angelo, through the Piazza San Pietro; once up the grand stairway to the right, past the Swiss guards; once around behind St. Peter's (the best way to get an idea of the size of the Basilica) to the door of the archives, over the sill of which female foot had never stepped—and mine was not to be the first; and once across the court to the right of the great stairs,—before I found the official whom I sought with my letter of introduction,—Monsignor Carini, prefect of the Vatican Library (since deceased). A small middle-aged man, with a face like an old cameo just touched with pink,—in his black gown and cap,—he was an interesting figure. He listened in a most business-like yet courteous way to my explana-

tions of the object of my visit, which was to learn all I could at first hand of the Biblioteca Leonina, the new library of reference which had opened to scholars two years before the treasures of the Vatican Library. In the room in which we talked, the portraits of many of the Cardinal-librarians of the past covered the walls,—men whose office must have been something of a sinecure, and who would probably open their eyes in astonishment at the present activity among the old manuscripts formerly so jealously guarded. And after all, it is rumored that scholars are disappointed —that they do not find the assistance, the great revelations they anticipated in those old codices! Possibly there may be still a *sanctum sanctorum*. When one remembers the thing that happened in the winter of 1894-95, a short time after my visit, one realizes the necessity of special watchfulness over such collections. At the time of my visit, the custodians of the library were secretly much agitated over the mutilation of a number of rare manuscripts, from which miniatures had been cut by some unknown person or persons. A dealer in such things had had some of these offered to him, and thinking he recognized the source, had reported the matter to the library authorities. Gradually the objects were being brought back and replaced; and the news had been kept not only from the public, but also from the Pope, who is, in virtue of his office, the owner of the library. Every effort was made also to detect the thief. But some irresponsible newsmonger got hold of the secret and published it in a Roman daily paper, and this fell under the eye of Pope Leo. Explanations were in order. He summoned Monsignor Carini to a private interview. What occurred was not known; but a few hours after, the prefect had an apoplectic stroke, and his death followed within a day or two. He was a valuable officer, loyal and conscientious,—a Liberal, the son of a follower of Garibaldi, but untiring in his efforts to reconcile the Church and Court parties,—a man truly to be missed. It is hard to realize that on that sunny November day when he took me through those studious precincts, his tragedy had already begun. I had seen the "show" rooms of the library,—one of which appears in the accompanying illustration,—where the manuscripts are kept behind closed doors and one sees only frescoed ceilings, walls, and pillars, and the sumptuous gifts sent to former Popes from time to time, such as malachite tables, vases of lapis lazuli, et cetera. Now I was to see the rooms into which students were admitted, and to which the treasures from these closed cases were brought on demand. The first, presided over by the prefect, was not a very large room, and contained one good-sized table, at which perhaps a dozen men were seated, each absorbed in his task. It is needless to say that many formalities and unimpeachable introductions are required to pave the way for a student to the privileges of the library. As a rule, women are not encouraged to apply, and the rule as given out is that they are not to be admitted; but two American women, who were serious students, have been allowed to use here the records that were essential to the work they were undertaking. Whether they were allowed to study in this same room, I neglected to ask. From this room down a narrow stairway into the "consultation-rooms" in the former armory, was but a step; and here I found myself in the presence of the printed books that have formed a part of the Papal library for several generations, and of the books of reference used in connection with them and with the codices. A card-catalogue was shown to me by one of the priests who had helped to make it, and who evidently felt a professional pride in a very good piece of work. Everything I saw and everything I heard convinced me that the fresh air of the present had entered this once hermetically-sealed library, and that the very lungs

of the library force were expanding and taking it in. We of the present find our pleasure occasionally in delving among old things and trying to identify ourselves with the past, and it sometimes seems as if the past were conscious of our coming and rose up to welcome the new, fresh life.

II. The National Library of Florence.

Democracy is in the air in Florence. The independence of the Florentine is ingrained since the days of the Renaissance when Florence discovered that art and literature must be free at whatever risk, and chose these for her domain with all the necessary consequences. So, when one has carefully followed Baedeker's direction and entered the eighth door of the Uffizi from the Palazzo Vecchio corner and climbed the broad, straight stairs, one is not surprised to find all sorts of people making use of the National Library. It is a collection of some 500,000 volumes gathered in eighty-seven rooms on the upper floors of three palaces. One enters first the room occupied by the manuscript and card catalogues, and by the distributors of the books; and here, behind the desk, professors and students and scholars in all lines are fingering the great books containing the catalogue, or the cards representing late accessions. From this, one enters the general reading-room, at one end of which the bust of Magliabecchi,—the old eighteenth-century bibliophile whose bequest of his library to the city was the principal foundation of this collection,—looks rather sardonically down upon his beneficiaries. A selection of the principal reviews is placed upon a table with slanting sides and frames for holding each number. One may make one's choice from about a hundred and fifty periodicals in various languages, and, taking it to the desk, secure permission to read it in the room. The good American who, when in Rome, does as the Americans do, may here see regularly his *Century* and his *Harper's* and *Popular Science Monthly*. Of course this table does not represent the resources of the library in the way of periodicals, but displays those most in demand. A table is reserved for women; and here, at almost any hour of

A "Find."

the day, may be seen University girls studying and making extracts, and occasionally giggling, as is girl-fashion all the world over, I imagine. Teachers from the government schools, women writers and journalists, English and American residents who drop in for an hour with the magazines, make up the entourage of this table. There is no rule forbidding women to sit at the other tables, but a sense of propriety on their own part and the necessity for circumspection in a country where women are not as a rule so highly respected as in some others, leads them to draw together. At the other tables one may see men and youths of all professions and ambitions,—priests and laymen,

natives and foreigners, generally engaged with more or less modern works. The adjoining room is the one to which students of manuscripts or those desiring especially rare books are conducted. A printed blank, to be filled out with the name of the author and the title of the book or books desired, may be had at a desk in the reading-room, and the book will be brought as speedily as possible. One signs the blank and leaves it at the desk, and receives it again when the book is returned, as a quittance. There is but little red tape for the ordinary reader, and that little is administered with the usual courtesy of the Italians.

If books could tell their experiences, what tales might be heard within the walls of these three palaces, where are gathered together the hoards of private collectors, the unwilling contributions of the Italian press levied on by the government since 1736, the spoils of monasteries confiscated under the French, the Grand Duke Leopold, and Victor Emanuel! So much history is oppressive,—let us get out into the air again, where we can see the sky and the Arno from under the gallery of the Uffizi. MARY W. PLUMMER.

III. The National Library at Paris.

PARIS possesses six great free libraries. The University owns one; the city of Paris another; while the government owns the other four, namely: that of the Arsenal; the Mazarine; the Sainte Geneviève; and the National Library. The last is the greatest and best known, but the others are noble monuments to learning, rich with associations. The library of the city of Paris is in the Hotel Carnavalet, once the residence of Mme. de Sévigné; that of the University is in the Sorbonne. The Arsenal is rich in memories of Sully and Henry the Fourth; and it has the best collection of writers of the Middle Ages and early Renaissance.

The Sainte Geneviève boasts priceless manuscripts, and modern and ancient works, and is the heir of the famous library of the Abbey of Sainte Geneviève.

The Mazarine is the outcome of the private library of Cardinal Mazarin, thrown open by him to the public during his lifetime; and left by his will to the "Collège des Quatre Nations," now the Institute of France. It is rich in scientific, no less than in bibliographical rarities.

The National Library is also associated with Cardinal Mazarin. Indeed, its history runs side by side with that of the nation, ever since Charles V., in 1373, had a catalogue of his books made, and permitted learned men to use them. He owned 910 volumes. His collection was broken up at his death, a part passing into England. But succeeding kings followed his example. Louis XII. regained many of the lost manuscripts of Charles V. Francis I. established the library in Fontainebleau. Henry II. passed a law that a copy of every work printed "with privilege" should be deposited in the King's Library, as it was already called. Henry IV. brought the royal collection to Paris. During the reign of Louis XIV., it was much enriched, and was established as an inalienable possession of the Crown. It was, after various vicissitudes, housed in its present home, the palace of Cardinal Mazarin in the Rue Richelieu.

Here it has enlarged its borders and increased its treasures. It suffers from an "embarrassment of riches," for as yet it has been impossible to complete catalogues for its departments. It contains not only printed books and manuscripts, but also collections of rare works of art, engravings, medallions, coins, precious stones, etc. The original dwelling of Cardinal Mazarin had been altered, not for the best. The neighboring buildings have been gradually absorbed; and, of late years, plans for isolating the library from other houses, as protection against fire, are being carried out. Of late, also, careful attempts have been made to "re-

store " honestly wherever it was possible. The beautiful carving and the paintings on ceilings and walls have been freed from the structures that concealed them. The fine Galerie Mazarine, for instance, is gradually becoming the home of the manuscripts.

The additions to the original buildings are well arranged. The work of classifying and cataloguing the material is herculean. It is said, the National Library does not know what it possesses; and, to a certain extent, that is true. But the efforts to develop order are also herculean. The reserve rooms are well in order. Of course it is impossible to deliver every book immediately; a little forethought is required. The books most commonly used are placed in the small reading-hall, where there are about one hundred seats. Manuscripts are in separate rooms. The engravings, coins, precious stones, and other works of art are arranged in galleries where they can be easily seen. The officials are really grateful for any help. Applicants often forget that the National Library does not consist of the old Royal Library alone; but contains many distinct collections, given to it, and in some cases requiring special arrangement. There is therefore complexity, rather than confusion.

Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris—"Salle de Travail."

It is a dream of pleasure to an earnest lover of books, to pore over the fascinating manuscripts, look at the harmonious surroundings, and feel that he is welcome in this home of learning. It has always been the policy of the great French libraries to enlist in their service men devoted to learning, whose work is not merely to catalogue, but to help by inspiration and excellence. There is, therefore, the subtile charm

of intellectual enthusiasm joined to practical work.

The Library proper is open every day from ten to four o'clock to those who come to study. The art collections are open Tuesdays and Fridays.

The large hall for students of printed books was completed in 1868. It is roofed by nine cupolas, which rest on arches supported by iron columns. Light enters abundantly from above, the openings being so arranged that no sunlight reaches the readers during working hours. The hall is heated by pipes under the floor, and by registers; the ventilation is very good. There are nearly 400 places with desks for readers. Pneumatic tubes connect this hall with other rooms, one of which contains one million of volumes.

Permission to study is given on application to the Director; the application stating the nature of the work, with the profession and residence of the applicant. Foreigners give as guarantors some householder in Paris.

The study of rare manuscripts, medals, etc., is of course surrounded with more formalities. Many losses by theft have rendered the National Library watchful. There are no unnecessary restrictions, and a person who really wishes to study need fear no difficulty except that springing from the incomplete classification, the result of the accumulation of material. Indeed, there is a comradeship among workers and officials which gives an atmosphere of friendliness. At least, that has been my experience.

I should urge tourists in Paris to devote some Tuesday or Friday to a visit to the National Library. It has changed its name of Royal Library, as the government has changed; but its aims and purposes are unchanged,—another proof of the real steadfastness of the French nation,—a steadfastness frequently misunderstood, for it is allied to quick sympathy and versatile perceptions.

LOUISE BOTH-HENDRIKSEN.

IV. Some Notes on the British Museum Library.

ALL good Americans are interested in the British Museum and its splendid Reading-room and Library, containing the largest collection of books in the world, with the single exception of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. The first department of the latter, which comprises only printed books and maps, contains about three millions of volumes; and it is said that if all the book-cases containing this collection were placed in a straight line, they would extend to a distance of thirty-seven miles!

But even the British Museum Library, which now contains about 1,700,000 printed books (not to mention an immense and most valuable collection of manuscripts and prints), and which increases at about the rate of 30,000 volumes a year, is quite large enough for the ordinary American who admires "big things." So, of course, when I was visiting London in the autumn of 1895, one of the first of the lions that attracted me was the Reading-room and Library of the British Museum. Having met such kind treatment from the librarians of both public and private libraries in Italy; from the courteous librarian of the University of Naples, who took me into the Professors' Reading-room; from the various librarians in Rome, including the gentleman in charge of the *Biblioteca Barberina*, with its rare manuscripts in the beautiful room at the top of the Barberini Palace; from the Librarian of the *Biblioteca Centrale Vittorio Emanuele*, with its 500,000 volumes, not to mention the private library of the Italian Senate with its 70,000 volumes carefully arranged and catalogued scientifically in the only really up-to-date card catalogue that I happened to meet in Italy; having met the greatest courtesy also in Florence in the Public Library in the Uffizi Palace, and in several private libraries (all without influential letters of introduction), I must confess that I was sur-

prised when an English gentleman and a well-known author told me that I should encounter great difficulties in getting access to the books in the British Museum Reading-room without influential letters of introduction.

"Why, I am a member of the Authors' Club," he said, "and well known to the attendants in the entrance hall and the men at the door of the Reading-room; I have lived in London all my life; and yet, only a short time ago, when I happened to forget my ticket of admission to the Reading-room, I was not allowed to enter. There is no use in your going down to the Reading-room this morning and hoping to get in —you must make an application by letter, stating clearly that you are over twenty-one years of age, and why you apply for the use of the Library. You must *mail* this to the Principal Librarian, together with a carefully-written letter of recommendation from a well-known householder (who gives his name and address), stating that upon his personal knowledge, he is sure that you are a fit person to be admitted to the use of the Library. Perhaps within a week you will get a printed note asking you to call at the office of the Principal Librarian for a personal interview. If this interview be satisfactory, you will get a permit (good for six months) to use the Reading-room. There is no other way!"

I drew a long breath when all this red tape was unrolled, humbly thanked the author for his valuable advice,—and with an American woman's natural perversity resolved to go straight down to the British Museum that afternoon and try my luck *without* a letter of introduction! I was extremely anxious to collect some material at once for a friend; and the cousin whom I was visiting and who would gladly have served as my sponsor, had been suddenly called out of town.

I entered the vestibule of the enormous building, whose principal façade faces on Great Russell Street, and stated my errand to the attendant in charge. What was my surprise on being told to step immediately into the office of the Principal Librarian, Dr. Garnett,—a most genial and cordial gentleman, who was seated in a small room at the end of a long vestibule. Remembering the old adage, "in case of doubt, lead trumps," my hand strayed involuntarily to my pocket, where I had stowed away, to be used as a last resort, my American passport, my ticket of admission for the Public Library at Rome, my certificate of membership in the New England Woman's Press Club, and various other credentials. But I did not need to produce *one* of these!

As soon as I uttered the magic words, "I am an American!" they proved a veritable "open sesame."

"Certainly, certainly," said the kind Doctor, "what can I do for you?" I stated my errand, and immediately received a printed list of the rules and requirements for admission to the Reading-room. "But, it may be three or four days before you get the permit," he continued, "and you say your time is short here. Would you not like to go in at once, this afternoon?" I had not dared to ask for this favor, but, as the cordial Librarian handed me a temporary permit, good for a week, until my letter of application could be answered, I could not help expressing my surprise. The amiable librarian smiled. "Ah! we treat visiting Americans, especially ladies, in quite a different manner from the way in which we are obliged to treat the Londoners! We know that our American friends have no object in coming here except study."

Then he courteously bowed me out; and thanking him cordially, I hastened towards the celebrated Reading-room that Thackeray has immortalized in his Essays. It is on the ground-floor, and its entrance is opposite the central door of the front colonnade; but there are two broad vestibules to pass through, then a Room of Inscriptions, and finally a passage of some fifty feet in length

before the great circular Reading-room is reached, with its magnificent dome of glass and iron, 140 feet in diameter, or one foot larger than the dome of St. Peter's in Rome.

It would take a volume to describe chair, a folding desk, a small hinged shelf that holds his books; even pens, ink, a blotting-pad, and a peg for the hat are furnished. The room is well heated and ventilated, and lighted by electric lights; and if the Librarian

Reading-room of the British Museum.

this room and its contents as they should be described. As you enter, the effect is a most impressive one,—partly due, I suppose, to the circular form as well as the size. In the middle of the room, like a benevolent spider in his web, sits on a raised seat, the Superintendent, Mr. Fortescue; and he also showed me the greatest courtesy. Ranged around him are circular cases where the 2000 printed volumes of the General Catalogue are placed for the use of readers. Will the day ever come when that immense collection of books stored in the British Museum will be all catalogued on the card-catalogue system? If it *does* come, will any mortal ever be able to find the particular card of the particular book he wants? These thoughts flashed into my mind as I surveyed the vast room, with nearly four hundred readers, occupying seats that radiated from the centre like the staying-radii of the spider's web. Each reader has his could only keep intelligence on tap, so that the students could make the best use of the immense catalogue and the admirably-selected collection of 20,000 of the best reference works, nothing more could be desired!

The utmost courtesy is shown by the attendants; and although I began to haunt the libraries in Brooklyn, N. Y., at the mature age of eight years, and have persisted in that reprehensible practice in every city that I have since visited, I feel quite safe in asserting that with perhaps the exception of the Harvard University Library in Cambridge, Mass., whose genial Superintendent of the Circulation, Mr. Thomas J. Kiernan, has for years made it such a pleasure for me to consult that Library that I am sometimes tempted to say to him as did Dante to Virgil, "Thou dost content me so, when thou explainest, that doubt, scarcely less than knowledge, is pleasant unto me,"—with

this single exception, I have never met more quick, prompt, and ready appreciation of my wants, or eagerness to serve me.

The particular subject that I was looking up was "The Socialism of To-day." Although there is no general subject-catalogue, and probably there never can be, owing to the vast number of books, Mr. Fortescue, in his leisure hours and at his own cost, has made a subject-catalogue of the publications of the last ten years, and this has been printed by the Trustees. This catalogue I found of the greatest aid in looking up the most recent books on my own subjects, so that in less than half an hour I had fifteen or twenty volumes at my side. The process, however, would have been much slower had not the attendant showed me just how to use the catalogues and where to look. Moreover, the books that I selected were among the 20,000 in the Reading-room, to which every reader can help himself. I did not try to get access to the shelves or stack: very few persons are permitted to do that, and my time was limited. Friends, however, who have used them, found some difficulty because the dictionary system of classification is not followed; for instance, the various biographies of the same poet or artist would not stand together on the shelves.

In conclusion, a brief sketch of the history of the Reading-room may interest the reader. This magnificent building, begun in 1855, was finished in 1857: it cost £150,000; its earliest ancestor was a corner room in the basement of the old Montague House (the site of the British Museum) where, in 1758, the Trustees ordered one oak table and twenty chairs for readers to be placed. The poet Gray, it is said, used to frequent this room.

The idea of the present stately building was due to Sir Anthony Panizzi, the Principal Librarian [See portrait in THE MONTHLY for June, 1896], who had been promoted from the position of Keeper of Printed Books when Sir Henry Ellis resigned. Although he was an Italian, those best competent to judge considered Panizzi the best man for the place; and in the face of much opposition from those who preferred an Englishman, he was nominated by the Crown. The splendid Reading-room, 140 feet in diameter, 106 feet in height, with its 1,250,000 cubic feet of space, and its ample accommodation for 360 readers, is his best and most enduring monument.

A full description of this room, together with a plan of the interior, is contained in the "Description of the Reading-room" which can be bought for a penny from the officials in charge. Here, all the rules and regulations are clearly stated; they are also printed on the back of the green and white slips which are to be filled in with the reader's name, the number of book required, and number of his seat at the table. The slip is put into a little basket on the counter, and the attendant sends the book to the reader's seat, thus preventing tiresome standing.

No person who is interested in the cause of education or in Library work can afford to leave this Reading-room unvisited if he finds himself in London.

EMILY A. THACKRAY.

V. The Royal Library in Berlin.

THE greatest by far of all the German libraries is the Royal Library in Berlin, the mighty capital of the German Empire. It takes the third place among the world's libraries,—after the British Museum in London and the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris.

The Royal Library in Berlin is situated just in the middle of the great capital. When you pass "Unter den Linden", the most conspicuous thoroughfare coming from the west, you will stop before the palace of the Emperor William I. Right behind his modest palace stands the library building. A large square is in front, surrounded by the University building, the Opera House, and the Roman Catholic Church

The Bookworm.

of St. Hedwig. Opposite the Opera House is the entrance to the Library. It was erected in the middle of the last century, and shows in its style the architecture of that period, the Rococo. Over the entrance shines an inscription in golden letters, which indicates the purpose of the institution. It reads, "*Nutrimentum spiritus.*" The entrance is through a large door in carved wood. On the right side of the vestibule is the delivery-room. On the left is the catalogue-room. Here you can find three different kinds of catalogues; one giving the names of authors, and one the titles of the books, and the third classified by subjects.

A broad stone staircase leads to the second floor, which is occupied by the reading-room and some of the book-rooms. All the other stories—and there are three more—are devoted entirely to books, for the library contains more than a million and a half of printed volumes, besides a large number of manuscripts and other treasures. All these stories are connected with one another by various book-lifts and speaking-tubes. The reading-room is one of the largest of the kind. It extends through three stories, which all lead to galleries surrounding the whole room. When you enter you have to pass the desk of the librarian who is in charge of the reading-room. There is seating accommodation for five hundred persons. The windows are very large, and placed above the reading-tables at a favorable height for light and ventilation. There is also a system of electric lighting. Beneath the windows, around the room are wall-cases. In these cases, directly accessible to students, are placed the periodicals, both the current numbers and the bound volumes most frequently consulted; cyclopedias and other reference books; and also the works reserved from time to time for special service by different departments of instruction. The

reading-tables are broad, covered with green cloth, and well provided with ink-stands, penholders, etc. One can have any book in the library brought to this room; it is only necessary to drop into the box on the librarian's desk a slip of paper containing the title of the book and the name of the author, with your own signature. Within half an hour it will be handed to you. On leaving the room you return it to the librarian, who will keep it until the next day. These rooms are accessible to students; the book-rooms are entered only by written permission from the director.

Visitors are allowed to go through the library building and to look at the books every day from twelve to one o'clock; and such a walk is a very interesting one, as the library contains a large number of very old and valuable manuscripts and first editions. The staff is composed of a director, two sub-directors, and a large number of librarians and sub-librarians, besides a number of servants who carry the books from one room to another, and do other less important services. If you choose to take a book home with you, you have to drop a paper similar to that just now described, into the letter-box on the entrance door. You will get the book the next day at the delivery desk, or your paper will be handed back to you with a statement that the volume is taken by some one else, or not in the library. But there are few books on any subject which you cannot find in this immense collection. One day I asked for a little book on some theological subject, printed in the time of the Reformation. My paper was handed back to me, with the remark that it was not in the library. I looked in the catalogues and found that the book must be there, and went to the librarian asking for it. He looked at the title and then requested me to follow him. We both went to the book-room, accompanied by some servants, and looked for it in several book-cases. The librarian at length became nervous, though I couldn't understand why. He ordered the servants to take out all the books, one after the other, and at last we found it at the bottom of the book-case, where it had fallen. Then he congratulated me and himself; for the book, a very small one, was one of the most valuable editions of that time, as there are only four or five left, and its value was more than 3000 marks. So I got my book, and the librarian was happy. But such happenings are very rare, as the handling of the library is excellent, and no one has cause to complain.

As I said before, there are many valuable manuscripts in the Royal Library. Among the most precious is the manuscript of the songs of the priest Werner (1172), "Drei liet von ter maget" ("three songs of the Virgin"); a manuscript of the Nibelungenlied of the fourteenth century; and that of the songs of the Minnesingers. Besides these there are numerous manuscripts of Latin and Greek authors, and some ancient palimpsests and several papyruses from old Egypt. Of every book printed in Germany the library receives two copies, or if necessary more, so that it is yearly increased by more than 20,000 volumes. Besides, a large amount of money is spent in getting the most famous books of foreign countries, so that you can find for your study what you wish in every language. From one to two thousand volumes are daily handled by the librarians who attend on students. You will see the reading-room, notwithstanding its great seating capacity, always crowded, and in the delivery-room a large crowd of eager students waiting for the books they want. Another department of the Royal Library is, I think, not less important than the collection of the books. That is the collection of maps and the collected music, containing every map that has been drawn and every musical work that has been written. You also find here some very rare examples, as the

first map of the world which Michael Behaim drew when he came back from his long journeyings.

Such is the Royal Library in Berlin; and it is, as it should be, the very core of the University. Without it the Berlin University with its five thousand students would not be what it is, the head of all the universities of the German Empire. For from the collection of books made and through the use of them, there radiates an influence enriching all life by elevating, ennobling, and purifying it.

GUSTAV LANGHELD.

VI. The New Building of the Library of Congress.

BY the end of February, 1897, the appropriation of $6,250,000 resolved upon by Congress in 1888 as a limit of cost for the Congressional Library building will have been expended, except a surplus of about $140,000, which will be turned back into the Treasury; and the United States will have probably the most commodious, well-equipped, and richly and elaborately built and adorned storehouse for four and one-half millions of volumes that the world affords. This may well be called a library age, when, within the last three years, there have been completed—to speak of only the most notable examples—three library buildings, viz.: the Newberry in Chicago, costing, with its site, for the main wing only, which is all that is to be erected at present, nearly a round million; the Boston Public Library, costing, exclusive of site, $2,368,000; and the Library of Congress, costing (also without land) over $6,000,000.

The work of twenty-three American sculptors and twenty American painters will convey to later generations an ample representation of the taste and attainment in the imitative arts of the latter half of the nineteenth century. Although it is a question whether this age can supply the inventive genius to originate a style and school of architecture distinctively its own, and the utilitarian purposes of the building must undoubtedly have hampered the expression of such genius in any free architectural design, such as a cathedral might have given occasion for,—yet the ugly stack construction which most economically and conveniently stores the books, is encased by an exterior finely modelled on the best style of the Italian Renaissance, and nobly planned and executed. On the other hand, that genius for the application of scientific knowledge to practical uses, which is the bent of the age, is here so well exemplified that it can surely be said that never has so much architectural beauty been combined with such ingenious contrivances for lighting, ventilation, storing, transportation, communication, and the general convenience of the users of the building.

The Library of Congress, as all who have visited Washington know, stands on Capitol Hill, directly northeast of the Capitol, its west or main entrance facing a little obliquely the east or main front of the Capitol, and the grounds adjoining. It occupies, with its grounds, three city blocks, the building itself standing on 3¾ acres. The structure, of gray New Hampshire granite, presents on the outside a solid rectangle 470 by 340 feet in extent, surmounted by a gilded dome which towers to a height of 195 feet above the ground. But if one should look out from the high windows of the great central reading-room, one would see four spacious grass-covered courtyards within these exterior walls. These give light on both sides to the three arms which project north, south, and east from this central room. These arms, of which the east one is much the shorter, the north and south being equal, are the stack, or book-storage, rooms. They are in nine stories, each seven feet in height, of which the first two correspond to the fourteen feet of the basement, or ground floor, of the main building, the next three to the twenty-one feet of the second and main, or reading-room,

The Library of Congress.

floor, and the remaining four to the twenty-eight feet of the third, or museum story. Stacks and reading-room thus form a plus sign (+), longer across, from north to south, with an eight-sided room intercepting the crossing of the lines at the centre, the lowest arm of the plus sign being the great entrance hall instead of a stack. Having thus outlined stairway hall, reading-room, and stacks, enclose the extremities of the plus sign by lines, so as to make a rectangle. These outside lines represent the outside rooms of the building,—long rooms, with a square room at each corner, identical in pattern on all the three floors and on every side of the building,—which enclose the courts, and in which the three stack-arms terminate. These form the miscellaneous rooms of the building, in which may be located the copyright registry, the cataloguing work, special collections, and exhibitions of rare books; or they may be designated for any other purposes of work or exhibition. The two to the right of the main entrance are elaborately decorated and fitted up with a view to their being used as special reading-rooms by Senators and Representatives respectively. Those on the third floor are lighted by skylights as well as side windows, and being large rooms, twenty-eight feet high, are specially adapted for use as art galleries or museums.

Now that the skeleton of the structure is before us, let us consider it in the order of detail. Let us ascend the wide and massive stone steps on the west front, to the grand stairway hall on the second, or main floor. This entrance hall, 140 feet wide, in Carrara marble, is flanked on either side by a magnificently-carved stairway leading into a second-floor gallery, whose elaborate and startling color decorations form a gorgeous framing for the white splendor of hall and staircase. To the left of the great hall continuing beyond the stairway is the librarian's office,—a gem in decoration, — with safe, bookshelves, and private room and toilet. Proceeding straight onward through these spacious halls, we enter the reading-room, a glorious rotunda whose fine proportions disguise its actual size. Great wall-piers of yellow Siena and red Numidian marble on alternate sides of the octagon rise from a panelling of plain brown Tennessee marble, and support, at a height of about forty feet, a visitors' gallery, extending all around the room. Fifty-five feet above the floor a crown of semicircular windows, each thirty-five feet wide, pours down a flood of daylight upon the room; and the high vault soars 125 feet above all, with a ring of daylight surrounding and illuminating Blashfield's allegorical representation of the Human Understanding, looking down from the apex.

The British Museum reading-room has given the model for the arrangement before us. The desk in the centre is the meeting-place for all the pneumatic tubes, speaking-tubes, telephone service, and mechanical book-carrier service from every part of the building and the Capitol. A private staircase from this desk leads to the floor below, and at its foot is the library terminus of the four-by-six-foot tunnel to the Capitol. Through this tunnel pass book-cars and all the other methods of communication provided, and Senators and Representatives may speak directly with the librarian at the desk from the terminal room at the Capitol. The mechanical device which does the work of pages and book-trucks in fetching and replacing the books from the distant stacks, is the invention of the present chief of construction of the building, Mr. Bernard Green, and will be used here for the first time. It consists of an endless cable, the carrying and return lines running within a foot and a half of each other. This cable carries a box extended into a receiving-plate which is toothed, like the fingers of the hand, only on a larger scale. Place a paper on the outspread fingers of one hand, pass the fingers of the other hand upward between the fingers of the first, and the

paper will be carried away by the second hand. Pass the hand back in the same way, and the paper will again be deposited in the first hand. In this way the mechanical book-carrier picks up or deposits books and parcels even to the size of a Webster's unabridged dictionary, and the turn of a hand on a dial directs it by means of the cable to any designated floor, range, or shelf of the stack, or elsewhere. This desk, the centre of administration and book distributing, is surrounded by a circular combined catalogue-case and bookshelves. The readers' desks are double-faced, with seats on both sides, and are arranged in three circles around the central desk, with aisles leading toward the centre. Besides these, projecting from the walls of the room below the visitors' gallery are rays of shelving. These form alcoves, which are divided into two tiers or stories, affording room for six tables in each alcove. In these semi-private study-rooms readers may reserve desks, and secure continuous possession of working materials and books for extended periods of time. As the book-carrier moves at the rate of 600 feet a minute, it will require less than three minutes for a book to be transported from the farthest corner of the stack to the librarian's desk, so that if this vast collection is carefully catalogued and shelved, and administered strictly and with system, a call for any designated book should not necessitate waiting more than a few minutes for it to be obtained.

It remains to describe the forty-four miles of shelving, which can be increased to one hundred miles, nearly all of the same pattern, and the three stack-rooms. Each of the nine floors stores, in each of the two larger stacks, 90,000 volumes, and in the short stack, 22,500 volumes. Each shelf is twelve inches deep by thirty-eight inches long. It is composed of parallel bars of steel, an eighth of an inch or so apart, each bar curved on either side, instead of being flat,—like a hollow tube from which the lower side has been cut away, leaving it open below. The rounded surface gives smoothness and strength, and the hollow bars in place of a solid plate give lightness. The upright and horizontal supports of these shelves are built with the building and anchored in the walls. While so slender that they do not intercept the light or look clumsy, they are perfectly rigid, and could be continued to twenty more stories all like the present one, without loss of strength. The shelves hook into the vertical supports in such a way that by lifting the shelf slightly at the back and tipping it forward, it can be removed, raised or lowered, even with a load of books on it. They can be adjusted at any point on the upright at intervals of an inch or so. The bookcases run two together, back to back, across the stack-room. Windows, which, however, are permanently sealed airtight, face on each side every aisle between the bookcases. An aisle also runs the length of the stack-room through the centre, and an elevator and staircase are in the middle. The floors of the stack-rooms are of polished white marble; and on each side of the marble slabs of the cross aisles, between them and the bookcases, is an opening in the floor, five inches wide, running alongside the base of the bookcase. These slits in the floor allow heat, air, light, and the voice to pass from the highest to the lowest story, and even a book to be handed through. They can easily be covered by wire netting if found desirable. A book-support, also the device of Mr. Green, is a thin plate of steel about the size of an ordinary book. A flat pin beneath slips between the bars of the shelf; then, being turned to right angles with it, and screwed tighter, it fastens the support in position. It may equally well be fastened to the shelf above, projecting below, to support the tops of tall, topheavy books.

The shelf-room for four and one-half millions of volumes which this magnificent storehouse provides is not yet de-

manded by the million or so of books and pamphlets now belonging to the Library of Congress. But the terribly overcrowded condition of the present quarters makes it desirable to move as soon as possible; and as each stack can be heated and operated independently, occupancy of one will not involve the expense of opening all. Congress at the last session made no appropriation for the installation of the library in its new quarters, but appointed a special committee from each House to meet jointly and formulate plans for the reorganization and moving. This committee has conferred with many prominent librarians, and is expected very soon to bring in a report outlining a scheme for both. Librarian Spofford has presented to Congress his recommendations on the subject, one of the most important of which is the appointment of a register of copyrights to relieve the librarian from copyright entry. Through copyright registry more than $50,000 is paid annually into the Treasury, and the overwhelming burden of this work has drawn off the assistants from the library staff proper so as seriously to cripple the latter. The connection between the issue of copyrights and the Library of Congress consists only in the fact that the two copies of a copyrighted book required by law are deposited in the Library of Congress. In fact, these accessions have almost exclusively built up the library to its present dimensions, as the appropriations for book-buying have always been ridiculously below what would be required by a national library, which the Congressional Library is popularly supposed to be, and which Congress itself occasionally assumes it to be. That it is to be a national library is the only excuse for this appropriation of literary property and for this costly building. Congress, however, has never acknowledged that the library is for the use of any one but Senators, Representatives, and the judges of the Supreme Court, the general public being admitted only through courtesy." The library has never been open after four o'clock in the afternoon, unless Congress sat later. An elaborate electric-light plant in the new building seems to promise that it may in future be opened during the evenings. It is to be hoped that the reorganization will include a generous relinquishment by Congress of its exclusive control of appointments in the Library, by throwing it open to the nation at large through civil-service examinations, recognizing the fact that its work requires special education and technical training; that they will give it a book-fund and employees adequate to maintain it on an equal scale with the British Museum and the National Library of France; and that another year may see a national library crown the library development of this age.

This brief article has necessarily omitted the description in detail of the mural paintings and sculpture, on which a book might be written. The cellar, extending under the whole building, through which runs a bewildering complex of mechanism, including huge dynamos, compressed-air reservoirs, etc., and the boiler-house, which is under ground, but not under the building, are most interesting, were there room to describe them. Those who wish fuller details should consult the interesting paper of Mr. Bernard Green, now in charge of the construction, read at the meeting of the American Library Association last September, as well as his report to Congress (House Doc. 20, 54th Congress, 2d session), to which the writer is indebted for information.

EDITH E. CLARKE.

"I CONCEIVE that a knowledge of books is the basis on which all other knowledge rests."

George Washington.

"IT is a part of my creed that the only poetry is history, — could we tell it right." *Carlyle.*

The Imperial Library of St. Petersburg.

ONE of the most important and least known of the great collections of books in Europe is the Imperial Public Library of St. Petersburg, which, according to a recently published report, contains more than a million printed volumes, over 30,000 manuscripts, several hundred cases (*thecæ*) of autographs, and some 80,000 drawings and engravings. The nucleus of the library was the famous collection of books and manuscripts made by the Polish ecclesiastic and bibliographer Count Zaluski, who generously placed these treasures, numbering in all 293,000 titles, in a separate building in Warsaw for the public use, and on his death as Bishop of Kiev, in 1774, left them as a "bequest to the Polish people." After the defeat of Kosciuszko and the third partition of Poland in 1795, they were seized and confiscated by Russia as heir to the property of the Polish Republic (lately deceased), and brought to St. Petersburg. Owing to carelessness or official corruption, 30,000 works, many of them of rare value, disappeared during the transfer. Early in the present century the library was greatly enriched by the addition of the collection made by Dubrowski in Paris during the French Revolution, and containing historical documents acquired at the destruction of the Bastille and manuscripts of inestimable worth from the abbeys of St. Germain-des-Prés, St. Maur, and other cloisters plundered by the sans-culottes. Then came the spoils of new confiscations in Poland after the suppression of the revolt of 1830, among which were the library of a scientific society in Warsaw, with more than 2000 manuscripts belonging originally to old Polish churches and cloisters, and the library of the Jesuit College in Polotzk. The latter, instead of being put in its proper place, was stowed away in a building connected with the Ministry of the Interior, where it was entirely destroyed by fire in 1862. In 1817, Froloff's collection, rich in Russian incunabula, was purchased; this was followed in 1830 by T. Tolstoi's collection of Slavic manuscripts from the eleventh century, in 1848 by Kasterin's collection of Slavic printed works, and in 1852 by Pogodin's collection of some 2000 manuscripts relating to the history of jurisprudence in the thirteenth century. Other acquisitions have proceeded from successive suppressions of Russian churches and cloisters suspected of sympathy with the See of Rome. The unique character of the Oriental department is due, in a large measure, to Asiatic conquests, and especially to the subjection of Turkestan by Gen. Kaufmann. Among the incunabula are several that are to be found only here, as, e g., a missal printed in 1483 by Scheffer in Mainz. We may add that there are more than 5000 Aldine and Elzevir editions. Unfortunately the arrangement and administration of the library have not kept pace with modern progress in bibliographical and bibliothecal science, and seriously impair its usefulness. On September 13 the corner-stone of a new reading-room was laid. The building is to be three stories high, fireproof, and provided with electric lights and the latest improvements in ventilation and sanitation. It is to be hoped that this edifice will be the starting-point for a thorough reformation of the present management of the library.

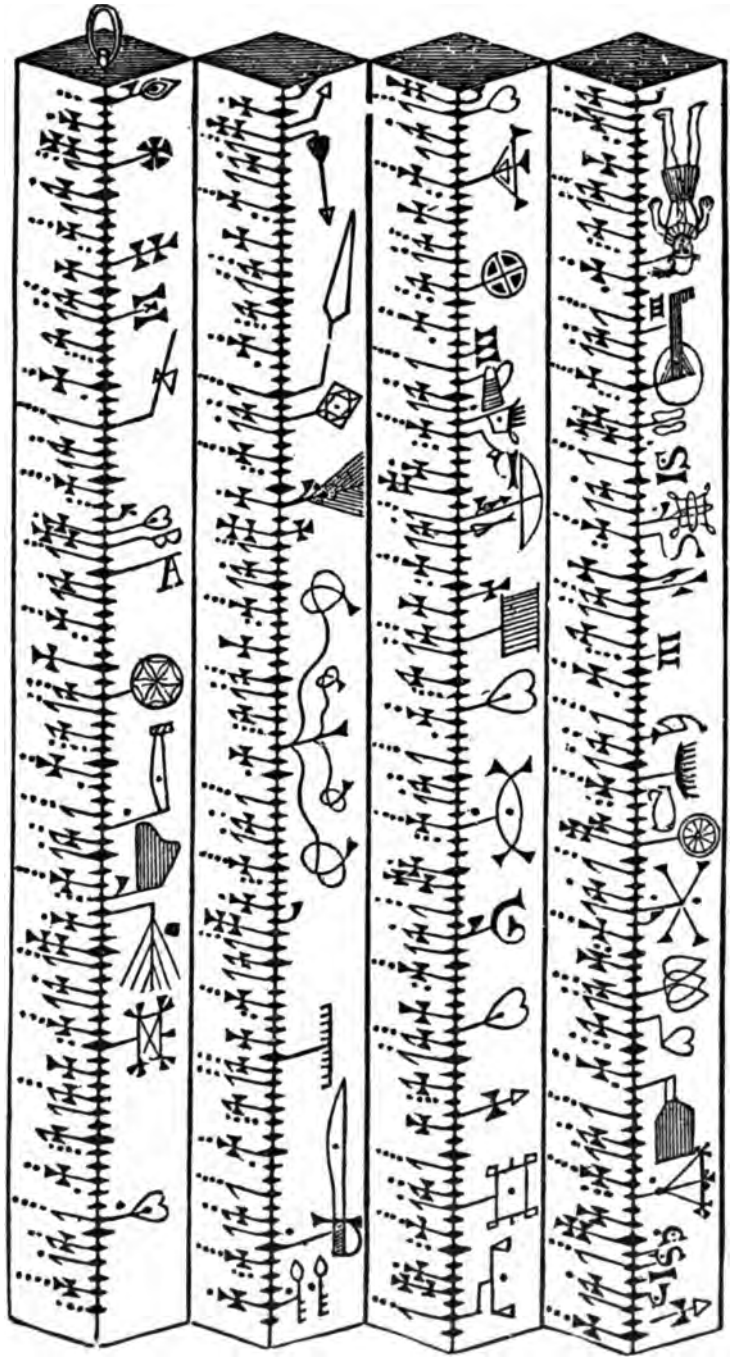
The Nation, Oct. 22, 1896 (p. 313).

"Within the book-world rests the noiseless lever
That moves the noisy, throngéd world forever."

S. M. B. Piatt.

"To keep in sight Perfection, and adore
The vision, is the artist's best delight;
His bitterest pang, that he can ne'er do more
Than keep her long'd-for loveliness in sight."

William Watson.



A Clog-Almanac.

A Word About Certain Old Almanacs.

SURELY, nothing in the realm of bibliography can be quainter than a collection of ancient "almanacks." We need not, perhaps, consider the records kept by notches on tally-sticks; still less need we pause over the Pompeian calendar cut upon a block of marble. For our purposes, the "Clog-almanacs" are abundantly curious and entertaining. These singular objects are, however, in some sort allied to the bunch of tallies, being made of wood, and roughly engraved with marks and symbols. The North of England contained many of these in the seventeenth century, when Dr. Robert Plot described them in his "Natural History of Staffordshire." A long squared block of box or other hard wood—or rather a series of such blocks—formed the almanac; it could be hung up for reference, or a section of it could be used as part of a walking-stick. By reference to the illustration, the calendar of the year may be traced in the quaint symbols employed. The days of the year are indicated by minute notches cut in the projecting angle of the squared block; but as the names of the days of the week are not recorded, the calendar becomes perpetual, and may be used for any year by noting the day of the week on which the year or month "came in", and adding a little mental calculation—for which there was doubtless abundant time and patience in those leisurely days. Each length of the four blocks depicted, records three months. The first day of the month is marked by a turned-up stroke; the Sundays, by a slightly-broader notch. The saints' days and other festivals of the Church are indicated by appropriate symbols (cut on the right-hand side). The month of January is figured at the upper left-hand corner. The notch for the 13th of January, St. Hilary's day, bears a double cross, indicating the saint's ecclesiastical dignity. The 25th of January shows an axe, recalling the martyrdom of St. Paul. The first of March—St. David's day—displays a harp. In the second block falls St. Barnabas' day, the 11th of June. A rake shows it to be the feast of the hay-harvest. Below it, June 25th, St. John the Baptist's day, is marked by a sword, emblematic of his martyrdom. Near the middle of the third block, on August 10th, St. Lawrence's day is noted by a gridiron commemorating his cruel death. In the fourth block, the cross of St. Andrew (an X) marks his festival, November 30th; and just above it the 23d displays a jug for St. Clement's day, when it was the custom to go about begging for drink to make merry. A somewhat obscure symbol opposite Christmas Day, represents a curved horn. This also was a convivial object,—the drinking-horn employed in quaffing the Christmas wassail. Wherever a heart is shown, some festival of the Virgin Mary is indicated; for example, near the bottom of the first block, which marks the 25th of March, the Annunciation, or "Lady-Day."

The greater festivals are always further indicated by a dot, or point, set in the middle of the symbol,—for instance, the heart just mentioned, or the Christmas horn. When the day or night before was observed as a vigil, a second dot was placed opposite that: as in both the cases just named.

All who have examined old printed almanacs, or even the quaint "Farmer's Almanac" of to-day, are acquainted with the "man of the signs"—that unhappy mortal, a sort of astrological St. Sebastian, who is depicted as surrounded by the twelve apparently threatening symbols of the zodiac. This figure is said to have first appeared in the almanac of Petrus de Dacia, about 1300 A. D. He served to point a moral—and very wittily, too—for Bishop Bramhall in his "Castigation" of Mr. Hobbes's doctrine of Necessity. The Bishop observes:

"When God created Man, He made him a mean [mesne] lord under Himself, 'to have dominion over all His creatures,' and 'put all

things in subjection under his feet.' And to fit him for the command, He gave him an intellectual Soul. But T. H. maketh him to be in the disposition of the second causes: sometimes as a sword in a man's hand, a mere passive instrument; sometimes like 'a top, that is lashed' hither and thither 'by boys;' sometimes like 'a football,' which is kicked hither and thither by every one that comes nigh it; and here to a pair of scales, which are pressed down, now one way then another way, by the weight of the objects. Surely *this* is not that Man that was created by God after His own Image, to be the governor of the World, and lord and master of the Creatures. This is some Man that he hath borrowed out of the beginning of an Almanac, who is placed immovable in the midst of the Twelve Signs, as so many second causes. If he offer to stir, Aries is over his head ready to push him, and Taurus to gore him in the neck, and Leo to tear out his heart, and Sagittarius to shoot an arrow in his thighs."

MARY L. AVERY.

Mr. Passmore Edwards and Free Libraries.

ONE reason, we feel convinced, for the comparative obscurity in which Mr. Passmore Edwards remains is that the community has not yet completely made up its mind as to the actual utility of his special fad,—establishing free libraries for the people. The majority will vote them sometimes, but very often they refuse in a "dour", pig-headed, silent sort of way which with Englishmen means that they are being asked for something in which they see very little use. When they yield it is often in an angry sort of way, because they are very much lectured, because a popular man implores them not "to keep so completely in the rear of civilization," or because somebody like Mr. Passmore Edwards puts them to shame by paying the money which they ought themselves to pay for the buildings and the first supply of books. It seems mean when one parishioner has given, say, £12,000 to refuse a half-penny rate, and so they vote for it, but they had much rather hear that their benefactor had given the money for a dispensary, or for baths and wash-houses. They seem to think that books are a mere luxury which those who want it should pay for, and no doubt there is something to be said for their view of the matter. Those who argue for free libraries almost invariably spoil their case by a kind of philanthropic exaggeration. In order to obtain the half-penny rate from everybody they say everybody will benefit by the library, which is palpably an untruth. Forty per cent. at least of any community will never benefit by any library whatever, because they will never voluntarily open a book. The newspaper is all they can manage in the way of literature, and they can buy that. To 50 per cent. more the library is merely a recreation, a mode of pleasantly passing time which otherwise would hang heavily on their hands, or at best of gathering some slight and comparatively useless acquaintance with the literature of the day. We do not see why, when so much is attempted to increase the amenity of the general life, this amenity, which at once conciliates and humanizes, should be so angrily rejected; but we will let that pass. The real justification for the free library is its effect upon the remaining 10 per cent. of those privileged to enter its walls. Eight per cent. of the 10 are definitely raised by much reading in the scale of civilization, so much raised that they diffuse a measure of light around them, and help to break up the almost incredibly thick crust of ignorance in which the masses of every nation are almost of necessity embedded. They fulfill in an irregular and imperfect, but still perceptible way, the function of school-teachers in Scotland and Germany, or of that class of clergymen, now happily growing numerous in all denominations, who grow positively exasperated by the dense medium around them, and must at any cost of exertion disperse a little, if only that they may breathe. The remaining 2 per cent. of readers are men of the kind who, if they cannot get in-

struction, obtain such knowledge and such capacity that they add as much to the resources of the community, to its positive means of accumulation, if you like to put it so, as a spring adds to the grass-producing power of a meadow. One mechanician made competent by access to drawings, one chemist in the broader sense, who has learned what Nature produces, one politician who has become wide-minded through reading—understands, say, what currency really means—will repay in a year to his own community all that a free library can cost in a generation. Nobody doubts that about the mechanician, and few about the chemist, but we could almost find it in our hearts to wish Mr. Bryan success in order that Englishmen and Americans might realize once for all what a deficiency in accurate political or economic ideas can cost a people in hard cash. It is the elevation of a very few only that a free library secures, but the elevation of those few could not be secured without the books, and the few act as a protecting, and so to speak ripening, force for the many.

Every library . . . . . ought to have a specialty, be it history or science or mechanics or geography, or, in fact, any broad subject, upon which the information within the building shall be intended to be in the end complete. A specialty acts as a kernel to a library; it draws to itself resources, and it attracts a class of men whose visits and whose vigilance not only wake up the librarian, but predispose him towards the collection of other specialties, thus avoiding that tendency of all libraries to become mere instruments of recreation. And, finally, we hope Mr. Passmore Edwards will give his vote for what we are convinced is the wisest compromise between lending libraries and libraries of consultation. Books should be lent from free libraries, but only to those who really want to give them more time, more study, and more interest than they can give within the building. A library which lends to everybody sometimes becomes a mere instrument for circulating novels, but a library which lends to nobody is deprived of half its use.

The Spectator, Oct. 31, 1896.

FROM lists of books called for at various public libraries in England, "The Works of Mac Sadler" (Max Adeler); "The Quinsey's Opium-eater"; "Jane Hair"; "The Middle Ages of Alum" (Hallam); "Story of Andrew Mackay" (Andromache); "Maud Arthur" (Morte d'Arthur); "Shoppinghour" (Schopenhauer); "Lamb's Asses of Elias"; "Carlyle's French Revelation"; "Dictionary of Verbal Words"; "The Decline of Gibbon."

Publishers' Circular.

THE American resort of the past summer to the Bodleian Library has been very considerable—so considerable, indeed, that the hospitable authorities there desire to make known beforehand to intending readers one of the regulations governing the library which they are in no case at liberty to suspend. Intending readers must come provided with a personal introduction which they can surrender at the Bodleian. When once their introduction is on file, they are entitled to read at Bodley's Library as often as they may revisit Oxford, as long as they live. The production of a circular-letter of introduction does not comply with the regulations above alluded to, and embarrassments have sometimes arisen, the recurrence of which it is hoped the printing of this information may help to forestall for the future.

The Nation, Sept. 24, 1896, p. 233.

"THE world does not require so much to be informed as to be reminded."

Hannah More.

Teachers-Students-and-Things

TO LIBRARY SCHOOL GRADUATES.

THE GRADUATES of the Library School of Pratt Institute are cordially invited to meet at the Brooklyn Assembly Rooms, 174 Montague Street, at the close of the morning session of the joint meeting of the New-York Library Club and the New-York State Library Association on January the fourteenth.

This meeting is called for the purpose of organizing a Graduate Association, by which it is hoped to strengthen the interest of the graduates in the School and keep them in touch with one another.

Those who are interested, but unable to attend the meeting, are asked to communicate with Miss Eleanor H. Frick, Pratt Institute Free Library.

Signed:

JULIA C. STURGES,	Class of '91.
ELEANOR B. WOODRUFF,	" '92.
EDITH M. PECK,	" '93.
CATHERINE W. FAUCON,	" '94.
SARAH S. ODDIE,	" '95.
ANNIE C. MOORE,	" '96.

THE NEW-YORK Library Association and the New-York Library Club will meet at the Brooklyn Assembly Rooms, 174 Montague Street, on Thursday, January 14, at 10 a. m. The President's address will be delivered by Mr. J. N. Larned; notes on Library Progress in the State will be given by Mr. W. R. Eastman. A paper on Literature Clubs will be read by Mr. Richard Jones of Albany. "What should Librarians Read?" will be discussed by Messrs. George H. Baker, W. A. Bardwell, E. A. Bostwick, and W. Eames. The annual meeting of the Library Association will follow, with the election of officers.

At the afternoon session, beginning at 2.30 p. m., the time will be occupied by questions and answers concerning the best books of 1896. They will be considered in the following groups:

(1) Reference books; (2) philosophy, ethics, and religion; (3) social science and education; (4) science and useful arts; (5) fine arts; (6) language and literature; (7) fiction; (8) travel; (9) biography; (10) history; and (11) juvenile books.

THE BROOKLYN LIBRARY Association is planning for a public meeting at the Academy of Music, on the evening of January 14, at which meeting the members of the New-York Library Association and the New-York Library Club will be present as guests of the Brooklyn Association. Mr. Andrew Carnegie has promised to speak on this occasion.

BEGINNING WITH the first of October, the Children's Room has been open every evening until 8.30. No books are given out after six. Boys and girls come to read, to write compositions, to find pieces to speak, and to see one another.

Among many expedients which have been tried with a view to interesting those who come "because the rest do", the cutting out and pasting of pictures have proved most effective. The attendance has increased from three to seventy-five.

A FEW WEEKS ago, a little Polish boy in returning his book to the Children's Room, passed an envelope to the assistant in charge. Opening it, she found a silver piece. Glancing at the child's card, she said, "There is no fine." "No," came the timid reply. "It's f' you!" "Did you owe some money to the Library before?" "No. I tell you, it's f' you!" Then, with a mighty effort, for the little fellow was very shy, "My mamma sent it down 'cause you're so *good* down here." The boy beamed all over when he was told that a book would be bought with the money, and all the children should have it to read.

MISS ELEANOR ANGELL, of the Library School, Class of '96, has been engaged as assistant on the catalogue of photographs for the Art Reference Department.

MISS KATRINE H. JACOBSEN, Class of '96, has resigned her position in the Harlem Branch of the New York Free Circulating Library, to act as assistant at the Astral Branch of the Free Library of Pratt Institute.

ON WEDNESDAY, November 24, the second lecture of the Institute Free Course was given in Assembly Hall, by Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, formerly the president of Wellesley College. The subject was "Bicycle Journeys in Europe."

More swiftly than wheels could have taken us, we were away in Normandy, riding along country roads, looking off from Mont St. Michel, or shut in by tranquil beauty. We wound through the Rhone and Rhine valleys, with olives and mulberries, roses and palms, everywhere. Between the sunny Mediterranean and its bordering red heights we raced, and won our way into the mountains of Austria.

Perhaps better than our sightseeing were our (?) reflections by the way. We found in Normandy and Brittany the true strength of France; in little schools among the Austrian mountains our educational pride was humbled; we read the hearts of the people; and we took into our keeping a message for our own land.

Altogether, we came back exhilarated in body and spirit; but—such is human nature—we were unwilling to come back at all!

THE COMMITTEE in charge of the Free Lecture Course of Pratt Institute has pleasure in announcing a feature entirely new in its providing. On the evening of Tuesday, February 2, a concert of chamber music will be given by the well-known and admirable Dannreuther (string) Quartette of New York. For the greater enjoyment and appreciation of the hearers, a preliminary lecture is arranged for the evening of January 28, when Mr. Henry Edward Krehbiel, the musical critic of the *New York Tribune*, will take for his theme, "How to Listen to Music," with special explanations of the works to be rendered at the concert. This "double event," it is safe to say, will yield a double return of pleasure and education, since Mr. Krehbiel's instruction is always most enjoyable, and the Dannreuther Quartette's music is a source of true artistic culture.

MR. DENMAN ROSS of Cambridge, Mass., gave a lecture to the students of the Design classes of the Art Department, on Wednesday, December 8. His subject was "The Study of Art." Mr. Ross is connected with the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and is an artist who has spent many years abroad studying the finest masterpieces of Italy, Spain, Holland, and England. In theory, Mr. Ross is opposed to the present system of teaching art by drawing first from nature; believing that the proper education of the artist should proceed from the expression of what is within himself first, to the consideration of nature later, in order to develop originality.

Mr. Ross showed the work of one of his pupils, who began work with him two years ago, at fifteen years of age. They consisted of small rectangles of various sizes filled with surface-designs in color. The student, with no previous training in art, had worked one year with Mr. Ross in his studio; and the second year, had been left to work alone when Mr. Ross went abroad; being required to make at least one original design each day. On the return of Mr. Ross, the student had made about four hundred designs, from which the many examples shown were selected. The aim was to express symmetry, rhythm, and harmony. The striking thing in these productions was a certain boldness and naïveté. Some of them

were very pleasing illustrations of the above principles; and all showed, to some extent, the influence of the beautiful and rare works of both Oriental and Western art, with which the lecturer's studio is filled.

It is Mr. Ross's theory that this young man can continue thus to express himself in a more and more complex manner,—seeking when the proper time comes, the aid of nature study, until, as Mr. Ross put it, "in ten years he might paint a portrait." Also that by this method, the pupil's own originality would be conserved and developed to a degree not possible under present academic methods.

THE CHRISTMAS fair and sociable held by the second-year Normal Class for the benefit of the Art Students' Fund Association was not only very well attended, but a very pleasant occasion. Tables filled with home-made candy, sketches by the students, "still life," bric-a-brac, a booth for the sale of fancy articles, a fireplace with a row of bulging Christmas stockings, and a big bowl of lemonade, found ready purchasers. Dancing closed a merry evening, which was also a profitable one. The sum of $112 was realized for the Art Students' Fund.

THE FRONTISPIECE in the Holiday Number of *Harper's Magazine*, "Joseph asking shelter for Mary," is by Mr. Guy Rose, instructor in the Antique and Portrait classes in the Art Department.

MR. WALTER S. PERRY, Director of the Department of Fine Arts, gave two lectures in the large hall of Cooper Union on the evenings of November 28 and December 5. The first lecture was on "Egypt and Egyptian Art," and the second, "The Ancient Cities of Greece and their Beautiful Works of Art." That these lectures were fully appreciated was evidenced by the fact that although the first evening was very stormy, about fourteen hundred people were in attendance, and during the second evening, although the seating capacity of the hall is sixteen hundred, yet about two hundred persons were obliged to stand during the entire lecture.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES H. ELLINGWOOD of Montclair, N. J., have a little daughter, Amy Evelyn. Mrs. Ellingwood is remembered at the Institute as Miss Horatia B. Cunningham, teacher in charge of the Wood-carving Class.

From the graduates in architecture we have the following notes:

MR. JAMES E. DUNEAR of the Class of '95, is with A. Korber, decorator, De Kalb Avenue, Brooklyn.

MR. GILBERT L. HICKOK of '95 is in the office of Gilbert A. Schellenberger, 128 Broadway, New York.

MR. ERNEST S. RUSTON of '95 is with Milliken Brothers, Cortlandt Street, New York.

MR. CHARLES H. WILSON, who was for several years a student in the evening class, has left Milliken Brothers for a more advantageous position with another firm.

MR. WINTHROP A. WELCH is in the office of Mr. Smythe, architect, 62 Exchange Place, New York.

MR. WM. S. SWALLOW is in business for himself as architect and builder in Minneapolis, Minn.

MR. WILLIAM DEWSNAP is with Messrs. Child and de Goll, architects, 62 New Street, New York. Since his graduation, Mr. Dewsnap has also kept up evening study at Pratt Institute; taking last year algebra and geometry, and this year Physics. It is safe to prophesy success where such persistent effort to improve one's opportunities is made. This also illustrates the advantages offered at Pratt Institute, by which students' needs may be discovered and supplied.

THE DEPARTMENT of Domestic Art has received a gift of some cotton bolls and blossoms from Miss Eleanor S.

Hart, now instructor of sewing in a school for colored children in Calhoun, Ala. The cotton was raised on the school farm, and was picked from a stalk which took the first prize at the Lowndes County fair, held on the school grounds. The blossoms are pale yellow at first, but turn to deep pink a few hours after they are picked. Some of the bolls and blossoms are on exhibition in the Art-needlework Room, for the inspiration of students in design; some in the case of textiles opposite the sewing-case in the corridor of the Domestic Art Department, and some in the corridor of the High School Department. The Department hopes to add to this collection, photographs of the cotton-field, and of the different processes in the manufacture of cotton fabrics.

THE GRADUATES and advanced students of the Art-needlework class are giving their services as instructors to a large evening class of enthusiastic pupils in Art-needlework at the Young Women's Christian Association of this city. The class opened early in November, and is doing very good work.

THROUGH THE generosity of the Institute Trustees, a course of ten lectures on Historic Costume, by Miss Both-Hendriksen, under the auspices of the Department of Domestic Art, has been made free to the public. Those who attended this course last year can appreciate the great opportunity thus placed within the reach of all.

MISS CLARA G. JORDAN, a member of the Normal Domestic Science class of 1896, has now a position in the Boston Cooking School. She writes that she is giving a course of evening demonstration lectures on plain and economic cooking. It is a course which she has planned herself, and which she is working out without any assistance. The fact that the number of her pupils constantly increases is most encouraging.

A "KITCHEN-GARDEN" class has at last become a reality in the Department of Domestic Science, and Miss Emily Huntington, the originator of the "kitchen-garden", is the instructor in charge. There are to be six lessons in all,—one given every four weeks,—which allows plenty of time for practice work between the lessons.

MISS MARIA DANIELL, who was two years ago connected with the Department of Domestic Science, gave an interesting lecture at the Institute on Thursday afternoon, December 10, on "The Composition, Value, and Preparation of Foods." Miss Daniell illustrated the talk with specimens of different foods, and gave some practical demonstrations with the chafing-dish.

ON THURSDAY evening, November 5, the members of the Normal class of the Domestic Science Department accepted an invitation given them by Mr. J. W. Tumbridge, manager of the Hotel St. George, to see how he served a dinner to his three hundred and fifty guests.

The students were taken first to the kitchen, and saw the great thirty-foot range, with its six white-hot fires and two broilers, and the steam table extending the full length of the range, partly divided into compartments convenient for vegetables and soups, and kept hot by steam-pipes running through water beneath. They had also an opportunity to investigate the workings of the great dish-washer, which is one of the largest machines of the kind made. The dishes are placed in a wire basket and lowered into a tank of boiling water, to which some soap-powder and lye are added to cut the grease. A screw-propeller in the side of the tank drives the water furiously around, and in an instant the dishes are cleaned. The basket is taken up by a hoist and lowered into a similar tank adjoining, where the boiling water thoroughly rinses them. The water is so hot that the dishes are dry upon a moment's exposure to the atmosphere. The one man and two women completely and effectively do the work of thirteen per-

sons, while the saving in breakage amounts to over a thousand dollars a year.

In the store-room were seen the methods of serving the desserts and salads. Everything was set out for the waiters, even to the pat of butter. The potato-masher had been placed in the butcher-shop, and with this powerful appliance one-half barrel of potatoes were mashed in eight minutes. It is a galvanized-iron cylinder perforated on the sides and bottom, and resting on a firm iron tripod. Fitted to the cylinder is a heavy wooden plunger, with two arms across the top to lift it with. The potatoes are put into the cylinder, and the plunger forced down upon them with a twisting motion.

In the bakery a curious bit of information obtained was that the heat of the oven is gauged by the color of its crown; according to whether it is white, dark, or black, the baker is able to know accurately the proper temperature.

There was time to watch the preparation of mayonnaise dressing, and to see how the problems of cold-storage, general dining-room economy, and service, —questions in which the students are intensely interested,—were solved.

As regards theory and practice in modern hotels, Mr. Tumbridge believes that the cooking and methods of the Continental hotel have had their day, and that the present system is one not adapted to the needs of the American people. Mr. Tumbridge, as a staunch believer in the American style of cooking, looks forward to the advent of an American cook who will solve many problems in hotel management.

After a luncheon had been served them, the students visited the Plymouth Market near by, where arrangements had been made to cut up for them a side of beef, to illustrate the location and relative size of the various cuts.

EVERY DESK in the large Mechanical Drawing room is occupied this term, both during the day and evening. So great has been the demand for the evening instruction that further enrollment has been refused.

IN A recent letter, Mr. Arthur C. Tate (M. D. C. '94) describes the interesting and important work that he is now engaged upon in his capacity as draughtsman for Mr. Emory, the well-known inventor. He is making the drawings for a twelve-inch disappearing gun-carriage, to be installed at Sandy Hook by the United States Government. The gun is a regular 12″ army-rifle, firing a shot of 1000 pounds once in six minutes. The gun is raised a height of 14 feet, fires, and returns to its pit, in about one-and-a-half seconds. Its aim is accurate for a distance of 13 miles at any angle on a horizontal plane, and through an elevation of 20° and a depression of 5°.

THE ENGINE-LATHE made by the Machinists' Class is now set up as a part of the regular machine-shop equipment. It has a 13″ swing, 4′ bed, five-step cone, and weighted carriage.

AMONG THE new wood-working projects taken up by Mr. Green with his High School classes, are a pretty little photograph-holder of sweet-gum wood, and glove-boxes having designs in marquetry upon the covers.

A PLEASANT and successful social evening was recently enjoyed by the Mechanical Drawing Class. It was the occasion of the first appearance of this year's Glee Club. In addition to the singing of the Glee Club, the entertainment consisted of social singing, games, and dancing. The success of this first attempt at a class sociable has led to a determination to hold one each school term.

THE CLASS in Mechanical Drawing have, in connection with their work in the foundry and forge-shop, visited a number of neighboring manufacturing plants, in company with Mr. Stimpson. The establishments visited are among the largest of their kind in the country

and include Henry R. Worthington's foundry at Elizabeth, N. J.; the Hay and Budden Manufacturing Company, where was seen the process of building up wrought-iron anvils; and the drop-forge works of J. H. Williams & Company in South Brooklyn.

THE BROOKLYN Free Kindergarten Association held its first public meeting in Grace Chapel, Flatbush, on the evening of November 10. Dr. Wm. E. Gunnison, Principal of the Erasmus Hall High School, presided. After a brief address, he presented Dr. Lyman Abbott to the audience, who spoke on the value of the Kindergarten training to prepare a child for life's duties. Mrs. Langzettel spoke on the Philanthropic and Educational side of the Kindergarten. Miss Waterman gave a few suggestions as to the meaning of Froebel's Finger Plays, which were illustrated by 25 young ladies from Pratt Institute Kindergarten Department. The Rev. Mr. Boocock gave a short history of the Mission Kindergarten in Flatbush, and made a strong appeal for its financial support. Subscriptions were called for, many responded, and the kindergarten work scored another success.

THE BROOKLYN Kindergarten Union held a meeting November 24, in the Kindergarten Department at Pratt Institute.

Plans for the winter's work were discussed, and it was decided to have a musical evening, December 11, to consider some types of music best adapted to the kindergarten child.

It was also voted to act in unison with the New-York Union for the coming year.

"THE THIRD annual Convocation of Mothers was held in Chicago, in November. The three days, of three sessions each, covered a wide range of topics germane to Motherhood and ably discussed by specialists.

"Mrs. J. N. Crouse, the presiding officer, stated the broad platform upon which the Convocation was grounded, as discussion of principles that underlie the better development of the child.

"Among the speakers were Dr. L. P. Mercer; Miss Amalie Hofer; Mrs. Marion Foster Washburn; Professors John Dewey, S. H. Clark, D. J. Snider, and Wm. Tomlins; Colonel Parker; and Dr. Gunsaulus."

From *The Kindergarten Magazine.*

For a further account, see the *Kindergarten Magazine* for December.

AMONG THE most attractive of new song-books, comes "Small Songs for Small Singers," by Wm. H. Neidlinger. This charming collection is dedicated to his sister, "Alberta Neidlinger, whose interest in Kindergarten work has largely helped in the making of this little book." Miss Neidlinger is a graduate of the class of '95 at Pratt Institute.

The book is unique in its quaint humor and childlike simplicity. It is actually from the heart of a child, and is filled with childish sayings and reasons. The music is quite within the grasp of a little child's voice, and is most artistic in its rendering. The Kindergartner greets it with peculiar joy, as it makes transition easy to the more difficult music of a later age.

"A POINT of Contact in Teaching," by Patterson DuBois (Secretary of the American Philosophical Society and Editor of the Sunday School *Times*), comes to our hands fresh from the press. It is dedicated to the little children of the Sunday-school, and should be owned by every Sunday-school teacher in the country.

This book marks an epoch in Sunday-school thought. In this age of change the Sunday-school must change its methods, if it is to continue the good work it has inaugurated. Mr. DuBois has treated the whole problem from a philosophical and educational basis and has not only pointed out defects in the present system, but also suggested a remedy for these defects. Coupled with a deep insight into the principles upon

which all growth is founded, is a thorough appreciation of a child's standpoint in unconsciousness and a reverence for its sacredness. Mr. DuBois says:

"The Sunday School can as little afford to ignore or to repudiate those fundamental, pedagogical laws upon which all great educators are now practically agreed, as the secular school. Education is education, no matter what name the school goes by. The Sunday school suffers from a hallucination that, because it is a religious institution, it must educate by some method which too easily presumes on God's willingness to make good our shortcomings.

"Our Lord respected the child's point of view.

"The remedy for our evils lies in commanding child-nature by obeying child-nature; in inducting a child into a subject through his natural point of contact with life, his experience, his activities, his appreciations, his sense-perceptions, and his conceptions. The story of the beginnings of things is by no means the beginning of the story of things."

We heartily indorse this little volume from the Kindergarten standpoint, and wish it God-speed.

THE NEW Gymnasium of the Institute is rapidly approaching completion, and will be formally opened on the evening of Tuesday, January 12, in the presence of invited guests. We shall present a description of the building in the next issue of THE MONTHLY.

The work of the Gymnastic Classes is outlined below.

Classes for men will meet on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings. Applications received from January 1.

Evening classes for women (organized last October) will continue their work on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. New members received January 5.

Afternoon classes of the Pratt Institute Athletic Association.

Boys' classes, Monday and Wednesday afternoons, 4—5 and 5—6. Applications received from January 1.

Girls' classes (already organized), afternoon, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4—5. Applications received from January 4. Girls' morning classes: Monday, 11.15—12.15; Thursday, 10—11.

The regular classes of the High School, both for girls and boys, will be transferred to the new Gymnasium, as will also be the special classes of the Department of Domestic Art.

TEXT-BOOKS received by THE MONTHLY from Publishers and agents.

(These may be examined in the Textbook Collection, shelved at the north end of the General Reference-room of the Pratt Institute Free Library.)

From the Macmillan Company.

Cambridge University Press:

(Pitt Press Series.) English Grammar for Beginners; by Alfred S. West, Fellow of University College. 35 cts.

(Pitt Press Series.) Elements of English Grammar; by Alfred S. West. 60 cts.

Published by the Macmillan Company:

Exercises in Rhetoric and English Composition; by G. R. Carpenter, Professor in Columbia College. Sixth ed., revised. 75 cts.

Exercises in Rhetoric and English Composition (Advanced Course); by G. R. Carpenter. Fourth ed. $1.00.

Selections from *The Spectator*, with Introd. and Notes; by K. Deighton. 40 cts.

(Elementary Classics Series.)

Cai. Iuli. Caesaris De Bello Gallico Commentarium I. Edition for the use of schools, by Arthur S. Walpole, M. A. With Notes and Vocabulary. 40 cts.

(Elementary Classics Series.) Easy Selections from Ovid in Elegiac Verse; with notes, vocabularies, and exercises in Latin verse composition. By Herbert Wilkinson, M. A. 40 cts.

(Elementary Classics Series.)

Eutropius. Adapted for the use of Beginners; by W. Welch and the Rev. C. G. Duffield. 40 cts.

Elementary Physical Geography; by Ralph S. Tarr, Professor of Dynamic Geology and Physical Geography in Cornell University. $1.40.

"THERE are a good many people who go like a wheelbarrow—that is, they go just as far as you push them, and when you stop, they stop."

EDITORIAL

THE tendency to regard the writing of books as a trade or a profession has been increasing, and with it the number of workers, until one might almost say it is the person who has never printed or published anything who is distinguished, rather than the author. No longer is it taken for granted that he who writes a book must be a genius, —most of us number one or more authors among our acquaintance, and find them very much like other people,— deserving the same amount of respect, and no more. This applies more particularly to the literary writer, the one who writes things "out of his own head,"—not so much to the scholar and specialist, whom, on account of their study and erudition, we are still inclined to regard with awe. Authors themselves admit that it is quite as often the need of being self-supporting as of obeying the divine impulse that leads them to turn out two or three books per year, or to furnish serials by the yard. As long as the people will buy and read what they write, they do not see any reason why they should not supply the demand and reap the financial reward as would a man of any other craft or profession.

Let us suppose that they are right,— that, failing genius, a man has a right to turn his fair share of talent for writing to pecuniary account, and spin his brains into a thinner and thinner literary tissue as demands grow upon him and expenses increase. Suppose that literature *is* a profession or a craft. Then, why not prepare for it as for any other? Is it sufficient to saturate oneself with the great classics as art-students fill themselves with the Old Masters? Is it enough to have finished a college course in literature and rhetoric, as art-students take courses in the history of art? No,—it is not; the element of technique and of practice is wanting. Why should not young men and women who aspire to become writers select a master among the great names of literature and secure him for visits of criticism like those of the masters in painting who go about among the studios and point out flaws and weaknesses, or give words of encouragement? There is no more danger of too strong an influence on the master's part than in the case of painting,—and if there were, a good copy is better than a poor original, unless the original show hints of genius.

The best of our writers,—those who have achieved a style, not having the benefit of such criticism,—have evolved for themselves a theory of their art and have been their own critics; but it is safe to say that the majority of young writers do not go so far as this. Stevenson, for instance, gives this counsel: "The best that we can say to him [the young writer] is this: Let him choose a motive, whether of character or passion; carefully construct his plot so that every incident is an illustration of the motive, and every property employed shall bear to it a near relation of congruity or contrast; avoid a sub-plot, unless, as sometimes in Shakespeare, the sub-plot be a reversion or complement of the main intrigue; suffer not his style to flag below the level of the argument; pitch the key of conversation, not with any thought of how men talk in parlors, but with a single eye to the degree of passion he may be called on to express; and allow neither himself in the narrative nor any character in the course of the dialogue to utter one sentence that is not part and parcel of the business of the story or the discussion of the problem involved."

Let us imagine a class of aspirants to the literary profession, describing with the pen a living model,—the view from the window,—a journey taken in company,—a recently-witnessed event destined to be of historical importance,—a scientific experiment, or what not, that

all have seen; and submitting the description to the criticism of an experienced and careful writer. Or let the problem be a conversation after a supposed event, or an argument on a given subject, or let it be the making of a plot or the fitting to a given plot of the necessary and proper personages. What chances for arriving at precision, at accuracy, for discernment of things as they are, colored only by the student's temperament, for the pruning of wit and sarcasm, for sequence in argument, for the escape from vagueness of observation and thought!

Of course, the students must be beyond the stage where they need instruction in spelling, punctuation, and grammar,—the critic must not run the risk of having to perform the part of theme-corrector. For the rest of his work, it does not seem as if it should be more irksome than criticism in the studio is to the eminent painter. The discovery of a genius, now and then, who might some day reflect credit on his teachers, should be compensation for much toil among mediocrities.

Books, old friends that are always new,
Of all good things that we know are best;
They never forsake us, as others do,
And never disturb our inward rest.
Here is truth in a world of lies,
And all that in man is great and wise!

Better than men and women, friend,
That are dust, though dear in our joy and pain,
Are the books their cunning hands have penned,
For they depart, but the books remain;
Through these they speak to us what was best
In the loving heart and the noble mind;
All their royal souls possessed
Belongs forever to all mankind!
When others fail him, the wise man looks
To the sure companionship of books.

Andrew Lang.

High School.

THE reception given by the Senior Class, to the class of 1900, on Friday, December 4, was a complete success. The Seniors were out in full force, but there were fewer Sophomores and Freshmen than in former years. Although the Seniors were prepared to welcome "one and all," it must be confessed that dancing was a great deal more pleasant in the absence of as large a crowd as usual. The floor was well waxed, and the lights went out only four times. Mr. and Mrs. McAndrew, Miss Mowry, Mrs. Sheperd, Mr. Yarrington, Miss Brill, Mr. Sturges, Mrs. Spalding, Miss Stevens, Mr. Jameson, and Mr. Bartlett, chaperoned the party. The music was very good, the waiters were exceptionally skillful, and in all things the reception was a decided success. Of course it is needless to say that all the girls looked pretty, and all the boys very fine. The gymnasium was well decorated with '97's colors, and around the walls were arranged the banners of departed classes; while in a conspicuous place hung the great yellow pennant which signallized Pratt's athletic prowess a year ago. There was an abundance of cozy corners, with comfortable resting-places therein. The Seniors have reason to be proud of their success in giving a very pleasant evening to all who attended their reception.

* * *

The poster which may be seen from time to time upon the High School bulletin-board, is the work of a member of the Senior class, and is made at Mr. McAndrew's request; and the Seniors point to it as a proof of the brilliancy of their classmates, for they all claim a share in its production as much as if

they had really helped, and each must needs come in for a share of the praise.

* * *

The record of this year's Institute foot-ball team, is, in spite of many failures, a very good one. The team, composed largely of High School boys, was very light, but it certainly made up nobly in "grit" for what it lacked in weight. When we stop to consider that, in spite of light weight and inexperience, our team did not forfeit a single game, but played straight through the arranged schedule, even confronting such antagonists as the Brooklyn High School and St. Paul's, and that they even defeated the Latin School, we need not feel ashamed of them, but should rather be proud. They may not have won for Pratt the athletic laurels won by the champions of '95; but they have shown themselves worthy of praise for the way in which they have struggled against all obstacles, and gone through a season without one single mark to their discredit, or a single instance of shirking their duty.

NINETY-SEVEN.

Fine Arts.

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY ROBERT REID.

RESIDENTS of Brooklyn have so long gone to New-York for art exhibitions that they have hardly yet accustomed themselves to thinking that there can be any pictures of unusual merit displayed in their own city. And doubtless it will be news to many that here among ourselves, five minutes' walk from Clinton Avenue, on the third floor of the new Pratt Institute Free Library building, is a fireproof exhibition-gallery, in size forty by twenty-six feet, with all modern improvements, and especially well-lighted, both by day and evening. Here, through October, November, and December, have been open, free to the public, successive exhibitions of interest and of educational value.

The first exhibition, held in October, consisted of fac-simile reproductions of drawings by the old masters. This was followed by a fine collection of prints from paintings by Burne-Jones, Rossetti, and Watts.

From November 19 to December 5, the gallery contained twenty-three paintings and nearly the same number of drawings by Mr. Robert Reid of New-York.

This was followed by the exhibition of a collection of photographs arranged to illustrate the development of architecture, sculpture, and painting of the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. This exhibition was of particular interest to those who are attending the lectures on the History of Art by the Director of the Department of Fine Arts, as it formed a pictorial review of the ground covered by the lectures.

These exhibitions are now under the direction of the Department of Fine Arts, and are to be continued through the year. As in the case of Mr. Reid, it is intended to show here the works of one artist at a time, each exhibition to last about two weeks. The exhibition of paintings will be varied by collections of tapestries, stained glass, and other examples of applied art.

The work shown by Mr. Reid is among the most beautiful and successful accomplished by the "plein air" school of artists. That fascinating problem of modern art,—how to make pigment give the luminosity of daylight,—has been perhaps as nearly solved by Mr. Reid as by any American artist. Moreover, it has been done with less "stippling" or "hatching" or "spotting" of crude color than is usually seen in such attempts. Mr. Reid uses "pure color," but not obtrusively. And in a subtle scheme of values, as the beautiful "Village Street, Evening," it is so combined and mingled without losing its transparency, that one forgets that Mr. Reid is called an impressionist. Nor, indeed, is he likely to think of any school or manner of

work at all—but only to behold the beauty of well-placed lines, spaces, and color harmonies, as one looking again at some lovely elusive phase of twilight, seen and lost long ago; and to rejoice that its spirit is here reproduced on the canvas.

Of a different stamp is the "October Days," a wide stretch of hill and field, lying steeped in mellow sunlight, with tremulous, hazy blue shadows. To look into this is like a breath out of doors. Here is color, vibrating, tender, pure—but never anywhere crude. And how thin the pigment proves to be, when one looks closely at those luminous shadows!

The same suggestion of atmosphere is seen in "Sunshine," a bather in a pool, surrounded by trees. One almost feels the hot beat of the sun's rays.

This command of color serves Mr. Reid well in "Opal" and "Summer," two exquisite figures. "Opal" is most beautiful in color; and "Summer" in its delicately-modelled tones, and careful line and spacing, suggests the Italian primitives. The suggestion is stronger in "Fleur-de-lis," a half-length of a violet-clad young woman holding a gray jar, out of which rises a stalk of purple iris; and it is also felt in the "Village Street," before noticed.

The nineteen drawings and two photographs shown by Mr. Reid are of designs for wall and ceiling decorations, and display much feeling for grace of line and proportion of masses. Of special interest are those for panels in the Congressional Library at Washington, showing both the black-and-white drawings, and the artist's first note of the same in color.

On the whole, Mr. Reid's work gives us the delight of beauty—pure, sweet, wholesome, daylight loveliness,—presented with refinement and truth. That he can give force and vigor too, the lifelike "Portrait" of a man shows conclusively. For that spirituality of expression which speaks of something above Nature's loveliness, one turns to the "Portrait of an Old Lady." The delicate, peaceful old face, framed in its silvery hair and the old-fashioned black bonnet, rouses tender memories of other saintly faces. Yet despite these two notes, we feel that the power to interpret beauty in a rare degree is Mr. Reid's especial gift. And we recall that Browning makes Fra Lippo Lippi say:

"If you get simple beauty and naught else
You get about the best thing God invents."

D. M. N.

Domestic Art.

A PSYCHOLOGICAL VIEW OF POCKETS.

WOMEN do not appreciate the profound effect of pockets on character. If they did, they would have more of them.

I am writing this on the cars. With my overcoat, I glory in sixteen pockets. If I had fewer, I should now be engaged, as is every woman in the car, in gazing stupidly through the rain-dashed windows and yawning. A sudden *ictus scribendi* has seized me. One pocket forthwith has furnished a convenient pencil tablet, another a lead-pencil, a third a knife to sharpen it, a fourth my notebook of ideas for articles, and here we are!

You may have heard of people that carry their brains in their pockets. Possibly there's some truth in that sneer.

For instance, notebooks. Notebooks are simply indispensable to any thinker, any student, any observer. They are the hooks of literature, and they need no baiting. They coin the odd moments into golden hours. (Mixed metaphor.) They concentrate and perpetuate experiences. Wayside ideas, choice quotations, a comical signboard, the address of a friend, the price of your new hat, subjects for essays—all is fish that approaches their catholic net. A fine sentence in a sermon—out comes a man's notebook. A new word to be investigated in the dictionary—out it comes again. Now women can't do that.

What would men do if, like their sisters, they were confined for mental comradeship to their unassisted brains? Besides the aforesaid notebooks, men's pockets contain newspapers, magazines, books. If a woman should buy a newspaper on the train she would be obliged to throw it away at the end of the route —and she is too economical for that— or carry it in her hand, which already is burdened with the contents of six of my pockets. Therefore, she gets her news at second hand, or, usually, not at all.

The masculine Sunday-school teacher carries a New Testament and his Sunday-school quarterly, and gets his lessons at odd minutes. (Pockets, by the way, are the best things in the world to impress the value of odd minutes, and make it possible to utilize them.) Every man, moreover, is a clerk accoutred for instant service. One pocket carries, in a neat holder, a fountain pen, a black-lead pencil and a red-and-blue crayon pencil. Another pocket furnishes an eraser and a pencil-sharpener. A third pocket completes the outfit with a supply of paper. It is safe to say that most men, sooner than part with these portable clerical privileges, would resign the right to vote.

A man's business life is reflected in his pockets. Search a man's pockets, and you need not ask him his trade. "Shrouds have no pockets," says the fine old proverb; and if fashion should (or *could*) obliterate a business man's pockets, he would consider himself in a veritable shroud. Fancy a man carrying his pocketbook in his hand—with his handkerchief—all through a day's work! Yes, and his postage-stamps, and his rubber bands, and his business cards in a dainty card-case, and his scissors, and his account-book, and his letters, and his memoranda. And how *could* a man do business with his *watch* dungeoned in the limbo to which women condemn theirs, when they carry any at all?

I pause in awe. How much in man's character depends on his watch! How pregnant with consequence is even the difference between an open-face and a hunting-case! The punctuality! The regularity! The exactness! The knowledge of the value of five minutes! And if it required five minutes for a man to *get at* his watch——

Moreover, how could a man get on in the world without the pound of coppers, nickels, dimes, and quarters he carries in *one* pocket? Besides its convenience, think what a drill in mental arithmetic this implies. Doubtless, if a man had room about his apparel for nothing but a single wadded-up greenback, *he* would be obliged to use his fingers to determine the proper change in the case of thirty-seven cents from a dollar.

When a man goes on an errand, it is as easy for him to buy twenty things as one. He checks them off in his memorandum-book. But a woman,—if she has a list on a scrap of paper, it is at the bottom of her shopping-bag, and might as well be in Cochin China. Therefore, a woman has to go back the next day for the things she forgot; whereas, if she had had a memorandum-pocket——

A man always knows just what he has spent—that is, some men do. This is because they carry an account-book, and put things down as they buy them. If a man's account-book were in the left-hand corner of the bureau-drawer under the handkerchief-box, *he* wouldn't make an entry oftener than every other week, either.

I hesitate to broach the subject of keys, it involves so much. I really believe that man's carrying of the keys of the world has done more to give him his lord-of-creation, open-sesame air than anything else. By virtue of his key-pocket a man feels as masterful as the warden of a penitentiary or the janitor of a public school. There is his night-latch key, his office-door key, his desk key, his safe-deposit-vault key, his post-office-box key, his outside-door key, his home-secretary key, his valise

key, and a dozen more. A woman must hide the key under the mat.

The relation of pockets to bodily comfort is no slight matter either. I refrain from mentioning the handkerchief, because I understand that women are sensitive on that point. . . . Maintaining, however, an inoffensive silence regarding handkerchiefs, I may mention the comb, wherewith a man may always make himself presentable; the toothpick, man's joy and consolation; the knife and scissors (and I *have* known men to carry needles and thread); the button-hook, ready for gallant attentions; *and* the pocket-mirror! In winter a man carries a neckcloth ready for emergencies. He has a smoking-cap for draughts. He has his gloves,—and usually two pairs. On a journey his pockets are equal to a second valise.

A man's pockets make him resourceful, ingenious, helpful. They are magazines of playthings for fretful babies, of tools when handles break or accidents occur, of amusement and occupation for unexpected delays and waiting. They are the real Mother Robinson's bag.

A man's pockets give him assurance and positiveness. Woman, carrying her possessions in her hands, labors much of the time under an uneasy sense of having lost something. Man is sure he has lost nothing. It is in one of his pockets. And he finds it there. Pockets are safer than banks.

A man's pockets make him analytical; they teach him to classify. He apportions his life out among his pockets according to a regular system. Everything is in its place, and there is certainly a place for everything.

A man's pockets make him methodical. All through his life, change goes in this direction, rubber bands in that, business cards in the other; in one regular, undeviating order. If he wants his letters, there is the immemorial spot; or his watch,—his hands move automatically as the hands of the chronometer. And from youth, through courtship, through the honeymoon, yes, "until death do us part," there is the nook consecrated to a certain photograph-case — the pocket nearest the heart. Now, women can't do that.

A man's pockets make him self-sufficient. He is a little universe; with his overcoat, a big one. He has his time-table, his watch, and his pocketbook, and is ready in one instant for Europe or Cathay. With his hands in his pocket (most comfortable of positions!), jingling his change (most delightful of sensations!), he can confront the world in arms.

But why not equalize them the other way? Give woman the pocket—and this without any reference to "pocket boroughs." The pocket gains I have hinted at—convenience, comfort, method, regularity, promptness, resourcefulness, helpfulness, self-sufficiency, system, and the like; these surely are not unfeminine. In some of them already women excel their brothers; in others, they are inferior. Why should they not be glad to obtain them all—out of pockets?

Just think what pockets a woman might have, with her voluminous and multiform attire! Why, it would be a new science. And think what a woman would have to put into them! Her powers of individualizing would extend to her pockets, and the poets could write sonnets to Lesbia's pocket and entirely different sonnets to Sylvia's pocket, and still have a plenty left to say about Fulvia's pocket. A new branch of literature!

Amos R. Wells, in the *Jenness-Miller Monthly*.

Domestic Science.

WHAT THE STUDY OF SCIENCE CAN DO FOR THE INDIVIDUAL.

DR. ARNOLD tells us, "It is clear that in whatever it is our duty to act, those matters also it is our duty to study." As the material welfare of the race de-

mands scientific knowledge, it therefore is our duty to acquire it.

This has become a simple and fascinating task, since books no longer stand between the investigator and the object of his study. To-day each individual by observing the phenomena of nature and by classifying the facts, may re-discover the natural laws.

Science recognizes as its mission, the training of the mind, the acquisition of knowledge, and the application of both to the problems of life. However, as "we have not to train up a soul, nor yet a body, but a man, and we cannot divide him," it may be well to consider what the study of science can do for the individual.

If the work be done under careful guidance, the mind directing the manipulation and studying the causes and results, it will be found that "to be taught to see a thing is to gain thought and word at once, and both true." All truth will ennoble, and will find expression in action. Insight into nature causes all that before seemed most commonplace, to become interesting and beautiful. The Greeks never allowed beauty to be absent from any act of their lives. We too link beauty with all that we do, when we act understandingly. Then so-called drudgery no longer exists.

From the study of things which pertain to life, must come consciously or unconsciously the study of humanity. Where there is the desire to understand human beings, there is no danger of misinterpretation. On account of a flaw in the making, the cord by which the weight of a clock is suspended, may break. A mind accustomed to the consideration of such things, will realize that characters, like cords, may not be uniformly strong. An apparent blemish may be only "a scar brought from some well-won field."

As true scientific training should produce a reasonable and a reasoning mind, we expect it to relate all knowledge "to our sense of conduct and our sense of beauty," and also to recognize that it is not the knowledge acquired, but the effort made to understand the subject and its relations to life, which strengthens and develops the individual.

Science and Technology.

THE SANITARY EXAMINATION OF WATER.

THE potability of water is a question of universal interest. The farmer who draws his supply from a limpid spring high up on the mountain-side doubtless feels secure in the possession of a pure water, and the question with him may be of minimum interest. The inhabitant of a large city may have a tacit confidence in the Municipal Water Board, and believe that pure, or at least harmless water flows from the faucet in his house. But the country resident who takes his supply from wells dug in the ground, can have neither the unconcerned confidence of the one nor the indifference of the other. To him the question is of vital importance. In determining the wholesomeness of the water he is drinking, he has but little knowledge to aid him. The liquid may be turbid in appearance, or it may be clear as crystal, and yet this of itself tells him nothing; the turbid water may be good, and the clear may contain the germs of some dread disease. Again, the water may be tasteless or even quite objectionable in flavor, and yet what has been said of appearance may also hold in this case. He may distinguish between a brackish water and one containing but little salt; or he may know by taste and smell that the water contains some compound of sulphur; but as these are not necessarily harmful, he is no nearer the solution of the problem. He must therefore turn to those who have made the potability of water a special study. To what extent can they aid him in the solution of the problem, and by what means do they arrive at their conclusions?

The biologist and chemist both attack the problem.

The biologist makes a careful microscopic examination to determine the kinds of organisms contained in the water, and makes a rough approximation of the number present; he treats a few drops with "culture fluids," composed of meat-broths and gelatine, favorable to the growth of bacteria, and notes the number of "colonies" developed, and seeks characteristic specimens; he also observes the algæ, fungi, and forms of animal life. In this way, the characteristic bacteria of disease or sewage-pollution may be isolated, and the unfitness of the water at once demonstrated.

The chemist has elaborated a system of water analysis, ingenious and exhaustive, but not above criticism. To appreciate this fact, we have but to read the articles of eminent chemists, originators of processes and leaders of schools, in which the carefully-worked-out process of some equally eminent chemist is arraigned in terms of considerable warmth, and even pronounced unqualifiedly useless. When, however, the several methods have been considered impartially, a system can be established on a basis of the best obtainable results. Such a system has been established, and is now in general use. The determinations generally made are: residue on evaporation; loss on ignition; amount of chlorine, nitrogen as free and albuminoid ammonia, and in the form of nitrates and nitrites; oxygen-consuming capacity; and hardness. Each single determination, whether of chlorine, or of nitrogen, or of free ammonia, of itself tells little. It is rather the proportion in which these stand the one to the other that is significant.

Rain may be considered the primary source of all drinking-waters. In falling, it absorbs free ammonia from the air. It finds its way to the rivers and finally to lakes and oceans, to arise in the form of vapor, and be again precipitated as rain, continuing this endless cycle. It is, of course, with the career of this rain after it falls that the chemist and the biologist are interested. The rain may fall upon a cultivated field and take with it, in its course to the nearest stream, different forms of pollution with which it comes in contact. Or, instead, a portion may soak into the ground and find its way through cracks and fissures to still lower levels, absorbing soluble salts and decomposing ingredients already absorbed.

In analyzing a sample of water which shows contamination, the geology of the surrounding country, more especially the dip of the rock, is of use in showing possible connection between the reservoir and some distant source of pollution. It is, therefore essential, in any careful attempt to locate the source of contamination, to know the character of the surroundings; the area drained; the density of the population, and their habits; what care is exercised in matters of drainage; and all circumstances, however trivial, that may in any way affect the water in its underground course. It is only through such study and collation of facts that the causes leading to the condition of any particular sample of water may be determined with any degree of accuracy.

C. S. R.

Kindergarten.

A CONFERENCE on "Some Questions growing out of the Introduction of the Kindergartens in the Public Schools," was held at the Brooklyn Institute, December 3, under the auspices of the Kindergarten Section.

Miss Constance MacKenzie, Supervisor of Kindergartens in Philadelphia, gave a synopsis of the growth of the public school work in that city. She said in part:

"The Free Kindergartens of the city were accepted by the Board of Education in 1888. The Board of Education adopted first a scholastic standard for the Kindergartner, requiring examinations in Psychology, History of Education,

Physiology, Botany, Geology, Clay-modelling, and music; and also one year's previous practice in some kindergarten. They have added to these requirements, until now a two-years' Normal Course, with five months of practice, is demanded.

"The age for admission into the Kindergartens was formerly from three to six, and later raised to from four to six.

"An average of twenty-five children is required for each teacher.

"The work is now telling upon the Primary grades, and the kindergarten child is more in demand.

"The Philadelphia Kindergartens thought it wise to have only one session.

"Calling in the homes is necessary, that the sympathy between home and school life may remain unbroken. The Kindergartner is expected to attend any public meeting in the interest of education, and do what she can to broaden and make more true her work.

"Mothers' Meetings are held once a month.

"Excursions to the country, the parks, and the Zoological Gardens, have become an important element in the education of the children.

"One of the interesting things in the Philadelphia work, is the Free Kindergarten Library, originally a gift, now supported by the Board of Education. It contains five or six hundred books suitable for reference, for educational purposes; and new books are constantly added.

"The duties of the Supervisor consist in visiting kindergartens every day; calling meetings, regular and other; having special office hours for consultation; suggesting lines of work; and keeping the kindergartners in touch with the progressive thought of the hour.

"At first, each kindergarten was put under the direction of the principal of the school in which it was situated. Every Director is now the principal of her own kindergarten.

"Formerly, the Primary teacher said the Kindergarten child was disobedient —could not concentrate his faculties—did not know his letters—could not write, etc.

"Experience proved that he knew something of science, color, form, and number; and best of all, he had learned to think. The objection to the play of the kindergarten was removed, as people began to see that the child in play assimilated food from the outside world. The kindergarten is intended to train the *will*, to create habits, to arouse feeling, thinking, and action, and in this way put a child in possession of himself. The kindergarten is founded on play, for play is the serious business in the life of a child."

In reply to the question as to the effect of the kindergarten on the methods of primary teaching in Philadelphia, Miss MacKenzie said: "The methods have very materially changed in both primary and Normal departments. Studies are better coördinated and more objective, and are gradually following lines laid down in the kindergarten."

Miss Laliah B. Pingree, a member of the Boston School Board, and former Superintendent of Mrs. Quincy Shaw's Kindergartens, said she was more and more convinced that the way to do a thing is to do it, and she was glad Brooklyn is to do something in the line of Kindergarten education.

Every city has its own lines of work, and the various details settle themselves in a special way. In Boston, nineteen years ago, Mrs. Quincy Shaw began her kindergarten work. The greatest hostility came from the most advanced educators. The kindergartners found the wisest thing was to work quietly and well. Gradually the leaven took effect, and not only the teacher but the policeman and truant officer came to ask, "What is this that is making our children more orderly at home, more thoughtful, and more alive?" When the time came for the kindergarten to be accepted by the Board of Education,

such men as Francis A. Walker of the Massachusetts School of Science and Technology, and President Samuel Eliot of Harvard, visited the Kindergartens and gave them a hearty indorsement.

The money question arose. The Mayor said "No money for Kindergartens," but the 72 members of the council were "educated," and $20,000 was finally set aside for this purpose. Now, it is not an infrequent thing for the City government to request that a kindergarten be started in some ungovernable quarter of the city.

President Eliot says there should be no break between the kindergarten and the university. This must be so, as it is a question not of method but of principles, and they underlie all education and all life.

The Superintendent of the Boston School says, "I consider that the most important thing the kindergarten has done in Boston has been the effect on the public schools. It has simply revolutionized them." The secret of this success is in the teaching of principles. A good kindergarten can reduce the number of years spent in the primary department by one.

Regarding afternoon sessions, Miss Pingree spoke warmly. "In no city have they been successful. Statistics prove the demand for them to be small, and experience proves them to be most unwise.

"It is quality that Brooklyn wants, not quantity. The whole trend of education to-day is toward a more general training, a broader and more exalted idea of scholarship"

Miss Fitts of Pratt Institute, then said: "Experience proves that the kindergarten has come to stay, and it belongs to all ages. It helps all to get hold of life. It is not something isolated, it is not only for children from three to six. It belongs to all, and we are becoming more intelligent as to its meaning. The only need is that the kindergartner be able to tell of it in a simple way, and to live up to what she knows. It takes most people all their time, with good hard work, to live up to a little bit of it.

"The responsibility lies with the kindergartner. If we have something better and clearer than other people have, let us give it, let us 'labor with' people in the good old-fashioned way—let us give them an ordinary sense-impression of a good kindergarten; in this way we can convert individuals, and the public will follow."

Dr. Gunnison followed, heartily endorsing the half-day session, "not only for the kindergarten, but for the primary grades. It is important not to strain a child's powers at this early age. Better work would be done in three hours than in five, under proper conditions."

Mr. Ward, the chairman, added his influence for one session, on the plea that "'you can't put a quart into a pint measure.' A child can receive only a certain number of impressions, and to continue is to dim impressions which were originally bright and clear. After the absolute liberty and freedom of early life, it is absurd to expect a child to profit by five hours of confinement."

Miss Dozier, Supervisor of the New-York Free Kindergartens; Dr. Jenny B. Merrill, Supervisor of Public School Kindergartens in New-York City; Prof. Frederic Luqueer of School Number 110, and Mr. Abbott, Principal of School Number One, all added zest to the discussion: and thus ended one of the most enthusiastic meetings in the interest of the Kindergarten movement that Brooklyn has ever seen.

Library.

SOME GRIEVANCES AS VIEWED FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

VERY few public institutions escape criticism, and free libraries are especially subject to it. The chief complaint comes from persons who draw books for home use, and it is very often made with just cause. Much of it, how-

ever, arises from misunderstanding, and would cease were matters once clearly explained. In the Library of Pratt Institute, for instance, it is not uncommon for persons to feel aggrieved because, while they stand waiting a few minutes for an attendant to serve them, members of the staff may be seen seated near by who do not come to the windows or pay attention to visitors, but continue the clerical work on which they happen to be engaged. Clerical work, which is absolutely necessary for the carrying on of a library, would never be accomplished were those who do it constantly obliged to leave it for the windows; and the library-staff would very soon be depleted by illness and break-downs, were the assistants kept on their feet for several hours at a time, as is the case in many libraries. No assistant is here scheduled for more than two hours of continuous waiting on the public at one time; when that is over, she is expected to take up the sedentary work allotted to her as a change and a rest for herself, and as a means of getting that work done speedily. If she were to allow herself to be called away from this, she would entirely defeat the object of the change. And because two or three assistants are seen speaking together, it does not necessarily mean that they are neglecting visitors for the sake of discussing personal affairs,—it is much more likely that they are consulting with regard to some part of their work. No one expects the saleswomen in shops to wait on any counters but their own, or demands the teller at the cashier's window in the bank. Why should there not be system and arrangement in a library, in order that its work may be well done, —as well as in a shop or a bank?

Many persons have a habit of complaining to the assistants themselves, instead of asking for the head of the department or the Librarian, and when asked to carry their complaints to headquarters decline to do so for one reason or another. The assistants have no authority to change rules, and all they can do is to recommend an appeal. If this is not taken, the Library is certainly not to blame.

For most people, all that is necessary is to show them this side of the shield; but the individual who comes into a free library expecting to set aside the rule of "first come, first served," and to receive special attention, has come to the wrong place. It is quite often persons with this expectation who go out to complain far and wide, forgetting that institutions as well as individuals have and prize their reputations, and can be as easily and as irreparably injured in that respect.

Neighborship.

THERE was never a time in the history of the Neighborship Association when so much was done by its members as at present; but we fear there was also never a time when the great body of students at the Institute knew so little of the Association and of its work. Very likely, this is partly owing to the fact that Greenpoint, where most of the work is carried on, is a long way from Pratt Institute; but whatever the reason for this condition of affairs, it is lamentable and should not exist. For if the students of the Institute once realized what the Association is doing, they could not remain indifferent to its existence. Within the last year, it has conducted class and club work at Greenpoint which may bear comparison with that of any Settlement in the East. It has a corps of forty-two teachers and conductors of clubs, and its rooms, insufficient to accommodate all who wish to come, are filled at almost every hour of the day and evening. Subjects taught at Pratt Institute are here rehearsed to a new set of pupils, and the Institute teacher who endeavors to give of the best that is hers, often does not know that some one of her scholars is also already practising the divine right of helping others as she helps herself.

What can we do to put an end to this indifference and lack of knowledge concerning our philanthropic work? The Association is something of which every student should be very proud. It is vain and foolish to boast, we know; but in the face of such apathy it might be well to realize that the College Settlements' Association, numbering among its subscribers twelve women's colleges, supports but three Settlements; while the Neighborship Association of this Institute has as its offspring a very live Settlement that is growing fast and becoming an important factor in its neighborhood.

But this Settlement, like every other, cannot be carried on without the coöperation of a large number of persons. It cannot be carried on without workers, or without money. The first it has; and too much cannot be said of the service, beautiful in its faithfulness, that has been shown by those who do its work. But it must also have money to pay its necessary expenses. It would be a great pity if all this service were to be given up, if the people who have come to love to meet in our rooms,—who say that they cannot tell which teacher is the best, they are all so sympathetic and kind,—were to be sent away because we could not pay our gas bills or our rent. But just this must happen if we do not have more general support from the whole of the Institute. Will not all who read this remember that the Neighborship dues are only fifty cents a year (one car-fare a month), and resolving to walk one day out of thirty when they would rather take a car, help to carry on a work in which they may well be proud?

One thing further. It is hard to work alone. If each member of the Institute visited the Settlement once a year, it would make the work easier and more helpful to those who live with it always. The Resident Worker is always at home Wednesdays; and on other days, upon inquiring at the Astral Branch Library, any visitor will be directed to the class-rooms. Come *now*; and when our Settlement becomes as famous as Toynbee Hall or Hull House, you may be glad that you helped it along in those first years when it most needed your friendly aid!

Perhaps the most interesting of the many new undertakings at the Greenpoint is the Men's Club. This Club organized on Monday evening, November 9, with a membership of three. The next Monday it held its first regular meeting, and twenty-two men were present. Since then, the attendance has been regular, and the club is likely to be of no small help to its members and to the Association. The alternate meetings are spent in debate, and two debates already held upon the Cuban question have been interesting and instructive. Some of the men had been to Havana, and knew much of the Spaniards, while others could tell considerably more than the "Brooklyn" members of the difficulties of coaling our men-of-war for a battle in the West Indies. It looks as if the club would soon have to limit its membership. It is anxious to be in no way under obligations to the Association, and the fees which it pays will amply cover all expenses for janitor and gas.

How often we who write for THE MONTHLY have wished that there might be some possible way by which we could send in our news just a day or two before the magazine came out, and have it appear in its correct and beautiful printing as though it were a daily sheet! At December one wishes this most of all, for who will care to hear of our Christmas festivities when the first of February comes around? But this isn't a daily paper, and we will anticipate by saying that our tree was lighted again and again for our fathers and mothers, young men, young women, and children; that our spacious room was dressed with holly and full of the sweet, earthy smell of the evergreen; and that no Yule log ever burned brighter than ours as we gathered together with the spirit of Christmas in the midst of us.

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